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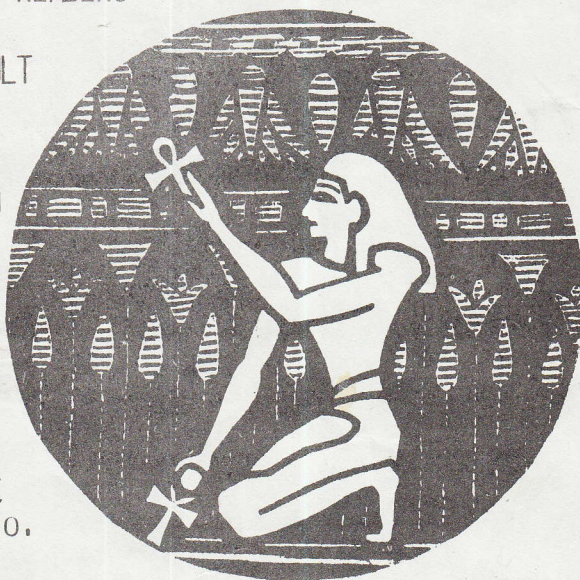
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EDITORIAL ISSUE TWO

Greetings everyone! Following on from the inaugural issue of Lamp of Thoth; here is issue two. We have been greatly impressed by the reception of the magazine by Occultists both beginners and advanced and our pleas for active participation has seemed to bear fruit with responses from all levels in this issue connected with articles and letters in L.O.T. issue one. Without trying to we seem to have trod on a few peoples toes too and whilst we do not intend this happening regularly we are glad of any feedback. It just goes to show how tame Occult magazines have been in the past! We will endeavour to keep the standard of articles as applicable and practical as is possible and again point out that a magazine stands or falls by the response and participation of it's readers. This is not some temporary occult rag disjointed from your own activities in occultism. It will only be such if the individual allows it to be so by becoming apathetic. Each of you must act as L.O.T. roving reporters and make the information; news and novelties you have found worthwhile for your own spiritual evolution available to others. The Charge is that knowledge should be transferred. Keep it to yourself and you will in all wise stagnate!

The only criticisms we have received from the many letters which were sent to us in appreciation of issue one have been from some people who have misjudged our intent in publishing controversial articles. WE DO NOT MANUFACTURE OR ENGINEER CONTROVERSEY IN ANY WAY AND DO NOT RELY ON SENSATIONALISM TO SELL THE L.O.T. For those occultists who have NOT got their heads in the sand we need not point out that there are a myriad of views and attitudes towards every occult activity/technique. The only valid technique is the one that produces results for YOU yourself. If you are satisfied with your system and feel that the results are maximised in your workings YOU ARE BEING DELUDED. If you think that no other technique/system can add to your own path then you are stagnating and are not 'living' occultism. Occultism EXACTLY is a pool of ways of gaining ascension that will reflect to the individual seeker those techniques and results that are applicable to his psyche; character; mode of existence in mundane reality and childhood conditioning. Of all structures Occultism is the one that allows for PERSONAL GROWTH. You may call yourself a Qabbalist or a Wiccan but when you get down to the 'nit-picking' each one borrows from the other OR can appreciate parallel systems which compliment each other. This is not a call for a 'Buddy -Buddy' attitude between the schools (although that might not be a bad idea) it is rather to say that if somebody stumbles upon The Secret of The Universe because of an 'accident' he/she is surely worth listening to and can contribute in some way to YOUR work. By degree then every little change of attitude and 'flip' of should be pounced upon by sincere seekers and related to their own work. Not always is this a welcome thing; for by qualification someone is correcting your own misunderstandings. This does not mean it should not be done of course and this is exactly where the L.O.T. hopes to assist; with a forum for the appreciation of ALL views on Occultism. Remember that the Christian Church never did like to hear of the possibility of another way to God. It called this Heresy. It got so fanatical about it that heinous atrocities in the name of Jesus Christ were committed against innocent and naive people because they didn't subscribe to the views of how the Church thought things ought to be. If you do not appreciate controversy in occultism ask yourself why? There's no doubt that Occultism can stand as much strain and criticism as we can collectively muster for ever and a day so the only permanent change to take place will be in accord with the Divine Plane. This will not falter; unlike the faint-hearted or 'cosy' amongst us. So the Lamp of Thoth will continue to print alternative points of view and the more controversial they are the quicker they may help our readers. The L.O.T. doesn't give 'sops' to subscribers, it attempts to give them real occultism. THE FACT THAT WE PRINT CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLES DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT WE SUPPORT THEIR CONCLUSIONS. We vet articles on two accounts. That they are worthwhile points of view that have not had the airing for discussion that they warrant and that they come from a valid source. In other

words don't just sit there and muse about controversy. Meditate on it and then, if you feel it to be incorrect, PUT IT RIGHT via the L.O.T.

Finally, before we get off our soapbox, a word on Pseudonyms. Some readers get uptight about these, but whilst we prefer to have contributor's names on their articles so they can be identified it is not always possible either for political or mundane reasons. I am sure L.O.T. readers would not wish to miss some of the Exciting and worthwhile articles that are destined to appear in these pages by pressing this point. It should be understood that we only hand out Pseudonyms if a real purpose is present and that behind the pen-names lies many of the well known and respected Occultists of the U.K & U.S.A., and not 'Joe Bloggs' from round the corner' (although if Joe must have a pseudonym we'll do our best.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE L.O.T. COST £5.30 AND COVER SIX ISSUES (incl. Postage) BACK ISSUES (Where available) ARE 93p INCLUDING POSTAGE. CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES ARE 4p per word. FULL DISPLAY RATES AVAILABLE UPON APPLICATION FOR TRADE ADVERTISEMENTS. THE NETWORK CONTACT SECTION IS FREE TO SUBSCRIBERS

NOTE: The editor seeks contributions which will be paid for. Articles need only be legible and although we would prefer typed double-line spacing, your handwriting is quite satisfactory if legible. Criterion is that your points are relevant and practical. SPECIAL NOTE: ARTICLES MOST LIKELY WILL BUT MAY DEFINITELY NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE EDITOR. The Lamp of Thoth is backed by the resources of the Sorcerer's Apprentice but maintains it's autonomy. Readers Letters for inclusion in PANDORA'S BOX will not be printed unless the writers full name and address is included. This need not be printed if you do not wish, choose a pen-name for yourself but we must have your details for our own records. DISCRETION ASSURED AT ALL TIMES. Reader's comments are invited on any aspect of Occultism. Suggestions on new articles; features and regular serials are welcomed.



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The Hereditary Debate

Anybody conversant with the basic differences between the Hereditary/Traditionalist branches of the Old Religion and the neo-pagan revival movement can have little reason to question the authenticity of Galadriel's description of her beliefs and practices in 'Witch is Witchcraft' L.O.T. 1. However many pagans do have cause to query the accuracy of the statements made in the article about other traditions.

Firstly, let us take Galadriel's remarks about the dual definition of the word "witch". Very good cases can be made out to prove that the term is derived from both "wise" and "to bend". In fact both descriptions fit the traditional image of the witch. Possibly the Oxford English Dictionary has the best answer to the problem. It states that witch comes from the Saxon "wiccian" which is "of unknown origin". However Galadriel is right to believe that witch is a derogatory term used more by our opponents than members of the Old Faith. It is amusing to see in comparison, that later in the article Galadriel uses the term "pagan" which is a Roman slang word for a rustic or ignorant country person. Quite rightly many followers of the Old Ways **reject** the title **Witch** because of the sensational image it conjures up which is encouraged by inaccurate history books and the modern media. One is sympathetic to this reasoning while still thinking that wrangling over linguistics is time-wasting, non-productive and negative.

It does not need an academic mind to realise that Gerald Gardner drew his inspiration from various published sources. Anyone with the slightest knowledge of pagan literature will recognize in the Gardnerian Craft the influence of Leland, Crowley, Apuleius and the Golden Panners. This has been explained by one of Gardner's earliest confidants Doreen Valiente. She states in 'Witchcraft for Tomorrow' (R.Hale £4.95, available from S.A.), that the Old Man only received fragments of ancient knowledge from the New Forest coven and had to fill in the gaps with material gleaned from the works of occultists he admired. In contrast to Valiente's inside information we find no references given to Galadriel's claim that Gardner was not inducted into the New Forest coven. Is this allegation based on personal experience, secondhand knowledge or perhaps only hearsay? At least she does not insult our intelligence by repeating the unlikely story current in some occult circles that Old Gerald commissioned Aleister Crowley to write the rituals of modern Wicca for a hefty fee! If Alex Sanders reads L.O.T. no doubt he will reply to the question about the age of his grandmother (Yes! he does; wait for L.O.T. 3) It is not my brief to prove or disprove his pedigree but the rites of the so-called "Alexandrian" covens are too close to those of the Gardnerian Craft to be coincidental. As for Ray Buckland, (Ed. who also reads L.O.T. and will reply in issue 3 too) who Galadriel for some reason seems to dislike, if he were to read the introduction to Buckland's book "The Tree" he will find that its author openly admits that Seax Wicca is an improvised modern tradition. Unlike Sanders and even (dare I suggest it) some of the self-styled "hereditary" witches, Buckland makes no grandiose claims to ancient origins for his beliefs. Many readers of L.O.T. will have taken exception to Galadriel's rather patronising tone when she said...without any tool, weapon or symbol or magical garment a hereditary priest can work magic" and suggests that the followers of other traditions would be lost without their theatrical props. Any magician worth his or her salt knows that magical tools, candles the incense etc. are symbolic objects used to focus the power and concentrate the mind. If a magician, of whatever spiritual belief system or tradition, cannot work effective magic seated in an armchair in their everyday clothes then they might as well pack up shop right now!

As a penultimate reflection on the general theme of Galadriel's article it is out opinion that pagans of all traditions should be working together to reconcile their differences at this difficult period when the future of the human race is at stake. Finally, are we alone in believing Galadriel's closing statement "those who choose to follow different paths cannot show each other the way" to be not only untrue but the symptom of a spiritual blindness usually associated with Christian sects who mistakenly think that their path to salvation is the only one?

GWYN

(Ed: Yes Gwyn, Alex Sanders does read L.O.T. So does Raymond Buckland and many other 'distinguished' occultists. Alex Sanders and Raymond Buckland will reply to Galadriel's article and the Hereditary debate in general in L.O.T. issue 3. Don't miss your copy.)

Dear Editor. I read with interest 'Which is Witchcraft' by Galadriel in the Inaugural issue of L.O.T. and cannot let it pass without comment. First, I deplore the fact that 'Galadriel' chooses to hide behind a pseudonym like any other writer of 'poison Pen' material, particularly as she uses this cover to snipe and sneer at others who genuinely seek to weld together both old and new ideas on matters relating to the Old Religion, thus keeping alive the faith of many in an apparently disintegrating world. If her views are honestly and sincerely held I can see no valid reason for her not being completely open whatever her status in society. With regard to her claim to be a hereditary follower of the Old Religion, let me say that I have the strongest reservations about this, especially since she seems to be unable to differentiate between Witchcraft and Ceremonial Magik. Over the years I have come to know and respect many witches, all of them revivalists, and to suggest to them that they indulge in rituals lasting 'weeks on end' must be provoking gales of laughter. Neither do they take themselves too seriously, bringing joy and laughter into their beliefs. Something which I suspect Galadriel could never do. With reference to her snide remarks about Alex Sanders, Alex is of course, well able to answer these himself. However, I would like to say that although I have never been a follower of his particular path, I am, nevertheless, proud to count him among my friends. Whatever small amount of harm has been done to the Craft by the publicity which he has admittedly courted, is far more than offset by the generous and genuine help and guidance he gives unstintingly to hundreds of seekers who have invariably been cold shouldered by self-righteous so called Traditionalists such as Galadriel. All of the many witches I know are revivalists and I would go so far as to say that in my belief 99% of all present day witches are revivalist and all the better for it. They are not hidebound by hallowed traditions going back hundreds of years into the long dead past. They live in today's world and are genuinely seeking to make it a better and happier place to live in despite the efforts of traditionalists of all kinds, both material and spiritual. Let's face it, people like Galadriel are simply anachronisms who should have the good sense to stay in their holes and keep quiet! Yours in The Great Work, Sylvester Stuart, Hastings

Dear Editor: Thanks a lot for L.O.T. 1. I nearly laughed myself sick over it. I can however see a few snags if a few silly people take everything as gospel. The article I was most struck with was the 'Witch is Witchcraft' one. The writer is absolutely correct in all she says and obviously belongs to one of the 'Old Uns'. I don't think there's a lot left really. I knew some of them quite well a few years back and to them Gardner and the rest are a bit of a joke. It's a family thing. Goes right RIGHT back. The 'Vik' derivation is very accurate. I think your author will tell you it's a genetic thing that has to be in the blood if it's really genuine. You'll get screams of rage from The Gardenarians and Alexandrians et al, and I will be most interested to see what reactions it arouses. B.G. Glos.

Dear Editor; The article in 'L.O.I volume one part one 'WHICH IS WITCHCRAFT?' has provoked a reply from me. Whilst 'Galadriel' did not say it outright, I felt the strong inference was that unless one inherits 'Witchcraft' or belongs to a Coven of alleged hereditary 'witches' then one is doing it all wrong. When are we all going to cease identifying ourselves with the title that the Media and the Church have saddled us with, that is, Witches? The words 'Witch and Witchcraft have become so hackneyed that it's becoming difficult to define what we are at all! I would submit that Pagans are essentially religionists and as such we can do without all the hassle of who is doing what and how right or wrong it might or might not be. I believe it isn't important to be initiated into a religion such as ours, it isn't essential to be a Priestess or Priest. The important thing, to my mind, is sincerity in one's belief, and belief in oneself. I don't think it really matters whether one chooses to practice one's religion in the manner of Gardener, Sanders, Leland or even Arthur Micklethwaite the L.O.I. Yorkshire Zen Master! If it feels right to the individual it matters little whether they use a circle, square or a triangle. Whether they choose to stand in a field, or on a mountain; or even sit on the loo! Each and every one of us has the RIGHT to worship our Gods as we see fit, in our own way, even if we haven't been privileged to inherit long used God names and ritual. Another short article in the same issue of L.O.I. by Mike Howard, on Pagan Rights outlines a far more important matter, that is the threat of harassment, and possibly even legislation against Pagan beliefs. It seems to me that if we Pagans do not stop bickering and fratching amongst ourselves; and if we fail to keep our own house in order, then we invite harassment. We can expect to provoke the Authorities, and, remote though it may seem, perhaps encourage the 'Mary Whitehouses' of this world to push that dreaded anti-pagan legislation into Parliament. After all, she believes in what she practices too! Despite my previous remarks I can appreciate Galadriel's concern (if concern is what it is) for the Pagan religion. On the other hand I think that people who are attracted to 'Witchcraft' via the Media usually become involved in what has been dubbed 'Gardenarian; Alexandrian or Seax Wiccan systems purely because many of the practical books on Witchcraft that are available at this moment in time contain details of these aforementioned 'systems'. These books certainly do not do any harm. If the beginners DO need the 'Old Religion' they will eventually find it within themselves any way and if it is not a religion they need, then, like everybody who 'plays at something' the glitter eventually fades along with their commitments and the dilettantes usually move on having done no real harm. If we are to associate ourselves with the psychotics who call themselves 'Witches' and who do irresponsible idiotic things which the media relish then we are lost. The only way I can think of to disassociate ourselves from these 'Witches' is to simply stop using the Term Witch. Bit strong at first taste maybe, but by ceasing to refer to ourselves as 'Witches' and to simply be what we are, following the religion we love in the way we like best, might well be a step in the right direction. As I was inculcated into a hereditary Pagan group as 'new blood' some time ago my comments on Galadriel's article are not motivated by 'sour grapes' but a genuine concern that some people may be disillusioned or put off if her article is not qualified. Anthony P. Batley.

Dear Editor. With regard to the various points mentioned in the article 'Witch is Witchcraft' L.O.I. 1. I would like to add some of my own views. First of all I reject the notion that 'Witch is a derogatory term historically. It is only defamatory when used by those hostile to Witchcraft or ignorant of it's meaning. (a rose is a rose by any other name). As to the etymological derivation of the word; there is confusion created by the co-incidental similarity of the word in certain of the Celtic and Germanic groups of languages. This philological quandary has resulted in confusion as to just what does constitute genuine and authentic Witchcraft. Largely, this is a question of not being able to see the wood for the trees, since Witchcraft is practised by all Races the world over. The dilemma comes with regard to the British Isles, since the majority of Witchcraft now practised here is based on Wicca, as evidenced by the use of Celtic and Romano-Greek Gods and Goddesses. It is necessary to trace three sources, not one (in a likewise manner, Alex Sanders received guidance from three Grandmothers, not one as usually presumed). The word Witch can be traced from the Welsh 'Wicca' roughly translated as 'bright' hence the bright or Shining Ones. However, it can also be derived from the Anglo-Saxon 'Witiga' hence modern English 'Wizzard' or 'Witch' finally it can be traced from the Viking or Scandinavian period, old Norse; Vitki, plural Vitkar 'a wise (man) of magic'. The Celts are Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings or Scandinavians all practised witchcraft and each group used words similar in each case to Witch. However, the structure, form and practise of Witchcraft differed in each case as did their attitudes towards it. Galadriel depicts Witches as an ethnic group, presumably Celt or pre-Celt, as distinct from the Anglo-Saxons who are said to have been genocidal invaders intent on razing the earlier culture of the British Isles and with a cringing fear of Witchcraft. Modern historical and archaeological findings suggest otherwise and Galadriel is either a chauvinistic Celt bemoaning over the past misfortunes of her race, one of the current degenerate breed of Englishmen crippled with self-guilt and traitorous attitudes towards our history and nation or else a rank outsider with rabid anti-English views. Modern Witchcraft owes much to the Golden Dawn, Margaret Murray's writings and Geoffrey Leland's 'Aradia' but it would be erroneous to assume that it's roots go no further than the nineteenth century, on this basis alone. I would like to know from what exalted position Galadriel is able to make her patronising and sneering "appraisal" of the modern traditions not already rejected by her; her snide 'pat on the back' for their efforts, adds sarcasm to injury. Having dismissed the majority of Witches with a contemptuous wave of her hand, we are then informed that there are dozens of hereditary witches with traditions going back thousands of years, maintained in clandestine silence down the centuries by their families. Perhaps she would like to back that statement with proof or else she must take the readers of the L.O.I. to be fools. If these families have sustained their activities in complete silence and anonymity for so long, they would not have made themselves known in their 'dozens' to anyone as conceited and garrulous as Galadriel, to have their existence revealed and exploited in the service of her literary pretensions. Finally she lists two points that no doubt are intended to astound those witches she has dismissed as charlatans, and solicit the nodding approval of her readers. Of course the gods and many of the other powers and entities that inhabit the cosmos have names other than those titles published, even an atheist could tell you that! However, making a statement like that proves nothing, much less, that you are in communion with the Gods through knowledge of their secret names of power, and therefore in authority to pontificate on this subject. The book of shadows may well be a recent compilation, but to suggest that Witches come exclusively from peasant stock is ridiculous and absurd. Witches come from all levels of society, now, as they did in the past. This also included the clergy in some cases who could certainly write. If this was not the case, as Galadriel claims, we would not have much of the information with regard to paganism in early times. As the industrious monks of the past preserved much of the old lore in their writings. As for the witches weapons - the wand is most evocative of magic and, yes, I'm sure most Witches can do without one, and frequently do. Nature provides the male with a very adequate wand. This itself sounds lacking and suspicious. Anthony Looker, Rexhill. . . Anthony Looker is the chief scribe to Alex Sanders. Along with this letter was a statement by Mr Sanders on Galadriel's article. This will be published in L.O.I. 3. with an intriguing reply by Raymond Buckland... and Galadriel's responses to it all!

MITHRAISM: The Cosmic Cult

A 3 PART ARTICLE BY JAMES STURZAKER PRINCIPLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF KABBALISTS AND AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS WORKS ON THE OCCULT AND QABBALISM.



PART ONE.....

The God Mithras left his mark more deeply etched on Mankind than Mankind realises. If we examine the Mithraic Religion from the point in time where he (Mithras) was at the height of his popularity, we find his cult spreads back into the dim and distant past, and forward into present day religion. The peak period for the Mithraic religion was synonymous with the glorious Roman Empire at it's height- it was in fact the Roman army that spread this religion throughout the world as the all-conquering troops extended the boundaries of the Roman jurisdiction. Because of the part played by Rome in spreading the teachings of Mithraism, it might be appropriate to look back from this point in history and find where they first discovered the cult before proceeding forward and seeing the influence of it on present day Religion. The God Mithras was first discovered and adopted by the Romans when they invaded Persia. It had been the Persian religion from way back in time and although for a period it's popularity began to fade, a revival was brought about by Zoroaster. In an attempt to trace Mithraism back before the Persian era, I have looked into the religions of many ancient civilisations and although I have not been able to trace it in it's entirety, aspects of it it can be found in many- just to quote two of them, Sun Worship and Bull Worship. Both of these sprang from Mithraism. We could, however, conjecture, that Mithraism and it's god sprang from the original Sun Worship. If this is so, then the origins and roots spread back through Atlantis and the even earlier Lemuria.

The Lemurians were Sun Worshipers and this was their only Religion- they were called the children of RA and RA was the Sun God, and to day the land of the Rising Sun is one of the few remaining land masses of Old Lemuria- we know this land as Japan a corruption over the years of Ra Pan- as you are all aware the God Pan is half man half animal, representing the fall (or a fall) of man when the Lemurians mated with the animal - hence the second name of Lemuria, Ra-Pan. As the Lemurian race disappeared the Atlantean Empire flourished and they also followed the cult of Sun Worship. Like the Romans of a later era, the Atlantean Empire spread across the world and from the American Indians we learn of the first Gods to drop from the sky. The history of the Hopi tribe informs us that the Great White Gods came in their flying birds. If we now transfer our attention to South America, history records that a God, The Winged Serpent, visited them and here also sun worship was the order of the day and this persisted down the ages to the time when the Spanish Conquistadors invaded South America and found in many of the temples a Sun made of pure gold suspended over the altar- also of course in quite a number a cross was the altar centre piece, this too can be put down to Atlantean influence, the cross being an adaption of the Egyptian Tau, and Egypt was one of the Atlantean Royal Colonies.

It can be seen from these details how easy it would be for some nation, perhaps Persia, to build up a religion based on a God falling from the skies and associating this with the Sun God and Sun Worship. I may be completely wrong in my conjecture but it is an idea worth considering. Mithras was the Sun God- he was born from the vault of heaven for the purpose of leading mankind and became, according to historic evidence the Son of God. The birth of Mithras was a cosmic event- he represented Light, Fire and Water at birth. He also holds in his hand the Globe and with the other touches the circle of the Zodiac, while shepherds watched and attended his birth.

Mithras was represented as the youthful God of Time while as the sun god he directed the course of the Sun through the Zodiac. In many inscriptions Mithras is invoked as the Sun God. Other impressions show Mithras and the Sun God side by side, one relief in Italy has Sol naked and is kneeling on one knee before Mithras, in between them is a small altar. In his right hand Sol is holding a dagger, point down, and with his left he grasps Mithras's right wrist. Mithras too holds a dagger in his right hand, point upwards, the two gods are obviously making a blood pact. One relief in Rome, that I saw, there were two deities on either side of an altar, Mithras quite clearly gripping the wrist of the second deity with his left hand in order to make a small incision with a knife, thus sealing the pact with the letting of blood. In the Barberinin Mithraeum at Rome there is a relief showing Mithras and Sol standing side by side with a small altar between them. All these impressions portray the duality of Father and Son in the one God. Mithras, after concluding his worldly mission, ascends in a chariot and returns to the Sun.

After his birth from the vault of Heaven, Mithras does battle with a Bull (this is featured a great deal in carvings). The Bull is eventually slain and from the blood which flows comes the life giving force that produces the fruits of the Earth. The term fruits of the earth means not only fruits but herbs and cereals, the seeds of life. The Bull was identified with the Moon, the female helpmate of creation, so Mithras appears taking an active part in creation. Mithras created life anew through the act of Bull slaying. The bull is also the symbol of Taurus and heralds spring the Birth of new life.

After the Bull slaying episode we have the story about the hero Mithras obtaining water from the solid rock- this came about through the battle that was always waging between the forces of Light and the forces of darkness. At the time of this particular miracle the people were being visited with all forms of suffering and hardship by the forces of darkness, having risen above each one they were inflicted with a drought. Mithras came to their rescue by firing an arrow at a rock face and water poured forth from the rock where the arrow had struck, and once more the force of light gained victory over those of darkness. Mithras is depicted as the God of Light and also the purifier. In many of the ancient carvings the God can be seen with a torch in his hand; this is a dual symbol of Light and purification.

Under the Church of St. Clements in Rome an old Temple of Mithras has been discovered, and the priests carry out excavation work in the winter months and it is open to the public throughout the summer. The altar stone in the temple is in perfect condition and the carving is clear and well defined. The fourth side of the stone which is facing the altar itself is quite smooth and clear of any inscription- on the left and right sides there is a carving of Mithras holding a torch at a downward angle the flames scorching the earth. The purification symbol- the front of the stone which faces down the temple depicts him with the torch held aloft, the symbol of Light, and he the God of Light. In front of the altar was a pit covered with an iron grill and it was into this pit the blood flowed from the sacrificial Bull or any other animal that was sacrificed. The temple was so arranged that the worshippers sat on either side of the temple, the centre thus being clear formed a broad walk down which the priests walked in orderly procession. When an initiation took place at one point in the ceremony, the candidate took up his position in the pit before the altar and the blood of the sacrifice flowed and dripped onto him. This symbolised the candidates purification, the birth of a new life and bestowed upon him immortality.

It was quite a strange experience standing by the pit and the altar of this underground temple. Fortunately it was at the time empty of visitors so that complete silence reigned- this made it possible to absorb the full atmosphere. Today it is lit by the electric lamp, but was easy in the silence to visualise it as it was with just the light of flickering torches, the whole thing held you as if in a spell as the mental body built up the procession of priests walking up the aisle toward the altar with the initiate following close behind, and the whole procedure of a Mithraic ritual was resurrected and burned vividly in the imagination.

There are many legends of Mithras and his works but I am only concerning myself, with what I consider the main points in his birth, life and departure from physical existence. Perhaps I should have mentioned earlier that Mithras was born on the 25th December and this remained his particular festival, when the advent of new light and the Gods birth were celebrated.

THE ENEMY IS LOVE

Man's biggest and most powerful enemies are Negative Emotions, all based on the cycle of identification, Imagination (Fantasy) and Justification. There are some concepts and inner states to which we give a favourable name and whose traditional and popular valuation we accept without question, basing our life's manifestations on the apparent meaning and value of the term as universally believed to be true.

One such term is "Love". We think of it as something good and desirable. In fact we even accept it as the anti-thesis of negative emotion that is, as a positive emotion! But nothing could be further from the Truth. As I shall attempt to explain.

As you read this, some of you may think that the author knows little of what he is talking about and is taking "Love" only in its worst sense and lowest manifestations. This is not so, but illustrates the very fact that in every language known to me that same word - love - is used to express and describe activities from the level of a physical act whose performance we share with beasts of the wild (a type of excretory function) to the level of so-called "Love" of Man for God and of "God" for Man. This should alert us and make us suspicious of such a blunderbuss word.

Let us ask ourselves: what is the essence - this feeling called Love? When a man loves a woman, or vice versa, he desires to unite with her, and when a man loves God he desires to unite with Him in what the Christians (and I believe other religions also) call At-One-ment. The moment love comes in, Impartiality goes out: it is my man or woman, my country, my God. In fact it is quite clear that love is based on and enforces Identification with the object loved. Also, what the lover believes about the beloved is sheer imagination (fantasy) and most often the beauty, faithfulness and other virtues attributed to her (or him) by the lover just do not exist. This is easily perceived by an impartial observer who is not in a state of love for that particular person. Finally, it is said that "all is fair in love & war" a classic example, we JUSTIFY every one of our manifestations and re-actions, all types of unseemly behaviour (not excluding murder) with the excuses: "I love her; she loves me; I must have her; we have the right to this experience with each other regardless of her husband, wife, children etc., etc., Or, at the other end of the scale (and we know from recorded history that this is fact has happened) there are those who argue thus: "I love my God- He loves me and all mankind - everyone must therefore love my God and believe in him - Anyone who does not believe in my God and does not love Him must not be allowed to remain in that state of sin and ignorance - he must be converted, by force if need be, or exterminated if he refuses to be converted and proves himself unworthy of life. Is it not abundantly clear that the three legs or supports of love are Identification, Imagination (Fantasy) and Justification? We already know that these same three are the very heart and soul of the deadly negative Emotions, and that without them negative emotions could not exist. Nor could love, on any level. So, if we genuinely try to understand how to Work on Oneself in order to achieve the highest possible state of consciousness, we must conclude that the very essence of Love is precisely the same as the essence of all other negative emotions, and therefore far from being good and desirable, the state of 'Love' is a state of Evil and undesirable. In short LOVE IS THE ENEMY. Note also that another expression meaning 'to make love' is 'to sleep together'. This is no accident - love indeed leads to a deeper and deeper sleep and not to Awakening. Another good reason to avoid it, for it is indeed a plague. Decide to ponder on love impartially and note that impartiality and love are incompatible. Yet without impartiality no Work on Self-Observation or Self-Remembering is possible. Just take into account, if you do indeed meditate upon this point, the following three things. Firstly Aleister Crowley (who was sometimes called 'The Wickedest Man in The World') had a direct voice communication from an Entity calling itself AIWASS (I-Was? as distinguished from I.AM - or perhaps the reverse of saviour - Sawia) Crowley claimed that Aiwass was his guardian angel and 'revealed' to him that there was one commandment on which all men must base their lives, this being: Love is the Law, Love under Will" Aiwass did not say the Law of what and under whose Will, but it is clear to me that it is the Law of Hell under the Will of Satan, our old adversary. The second point is that popular wisdom (Bearing in mind the great importance all sages and wise men, including G.I. Gurdjieff, attached to popular wisdom) states that "It is love that makes the world go round" So long as the world continues to go round exactly as it does now, Satan will remain Prince of this World. And he for sure does not wish to loose his Principality and uses love to keep it going the way he wants it to. This brings us to the third point, which is that, on Satan's inspiration undoubtedly, the most common and ubiquitous life-influence to which we are all subjected, which lulls us into deeper and deeper sleep and keeps us happy in our slavery, is the constant repetition of this word - love! Blared in myriads of love songs in all languages and creeds and in all musical styles, and also printed in millions upon millions of books in all tongues and scripts, all dealing favourably with love of one kind or another.

If we are not blind and deaf or fast asleep, it should be abundantly clear by now that if we want to wake up and be free, we must recognise all our states of manifestations for what they really are, and amongst them we must recognise love for the Enemy and curse that it is a and no longer base so much of our life on this deadly negative emotion which is so strong and prevalent. We must instead base our life and Work on clear and impartial reasoning, using the finest quality energy produced by and available only from our Intellectual Centre. Not the third quality energy churned out by our feelings and emotions. Nicolas Tereschenko.

(ed; reader's reactions to Mr Tereschenko's article are welcomed; whether or not emotion is the slave or master of Occult Man.)

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KEYS TO GOETIC DEMONS

The first part of the Lemegeton (being the Goetia of Solomon The King) is perhaps one of the most influential Grimoires of contemporary magical practice. This notwithstanding, the Technical instructions regarding it's modus operandi are incomplete. The 72 demons of the Goetia are said to be under the Rulership of the Four Great Kings ruling in the Four Quarters. The Lemegeton states that the various Demons are to be called through the Authority of their respective kings and that the triangle of art is to face the direction to which both demon and Infernal Monarch are attributed. But it is nowhere given in the text just which demon is ruled by whom, or to which direction each demon belongs, apart from a few references to individuals. We might suppose that the attribution of Zodiacal signs to elements and directions furnished the answer (see Liber 7.7.7. available from S.A.), but from the occasional references to King and subject within the text this method is seen to be invalid, e.g. Pisces is generally called a 'Northern' constellation in astrology but the Piscean Demon Seer is 'under Amaymon King of The East'. Crowley's 777 gives the attributions of the 72 evil spirits to the diurnal and nocturnal decanates of the Zodiacal signs. From this information and the Lemegetons Eastern Jurisdiction we have been able to reconstruct the original method of assigning demons to the quarters and kings. Bael, Agares and Vassago are demons of Aries, Seer of the constellation Pisces, Gaap of Aquarius. These three signs form a quarter of the Zodiacal cycle, and logically constitute the Eastern Quarter of the Curious system of the Lemegeton. Thus the other constellations, working 'backwards' from Aries are readily allocated to their respective Kings and the mystery of which King holds sway over whom is neatly solved. The following table shows at a glance the information completing the practical data of the Goetia and it's method of evocation.

EAST - AMAYMON	SOUTH - GOAP	WEST - CORSON	NORTH - ZIMINIAR
Phoenix ☿ Baal	Cimeries ♄ Forneus	Ose ♄ Morax	Nagenti ☿ Sitri
Halpas ☿ Agares	Andrealphus ♄ Astaroth	Gomory ♄ Purson	Vual ☿ Gusoyin
Malpas ☿ Vassago	Hauros ♄ Berith	Orobas ♄ Saleos	Bifrons ☿ Paimon
Seere ✕ Furfur	Andras ✕ Ronove	Murmur ☿ BATHIN	Vine ☿ Barbato
Dancalian ✕ Marchosias	Valak ✕ Bune	Caym ☿ Botis	Shax ☿ Amon
Andramalius ✕ Stolas	Zagga ✕ Glassyabolas	Alloer ☿ Zepar	Sabnacke ☿ Valefor
Amduscias ☿ Forcas	Vapula ☿ Cerberus	Balaam ☿ Eligor	Vepar ☿ Buer
Belial ☿ Asmodeus	Orias ☿ Aym	Furcas ☿ Oray	Focalor ☿ Marabas
Decarabia ☿ Gaap	Amy ☿ Ayperos	Procel ☿ Beleth	Raum ☿ Gamgyng.

JAKE STRATTON - KENT . O . ' . Z . ' . R . ' . C . ' . S . ' .

A TRACKLESS WORLD

For those whose experience leads them back, again and again, into doubt and darkness, the transition represented by the Tarot Trump THE MOON Finally becomes inevitable. This passage is a waking nightmare of avidity; even putrefaction has ceased and the world has returned to the inanimate state. Like a hospital patient in care, kept alive with drugs and machinery, the soul is on the brink of death, trapped in the awesome indifference of matter; " (The) veneer had melted leaving soft monstrous masses, in naked disorder" The heart is stifled by lack of emotional gratification; the mind numbed by lack of stimuli other than the ravings of fever. No recoil into the mundane experience is possible. The magician receives no light or warmth from the fiery realms of higher self; any identification that appears is false. The worst illusion of all is that of the possibility of success in terms of the Magicians aspirations; he is lost, and can only accept the role of sorcerer, mastering the currents of darkness on which he is tossed. To turn back at this stage makes of his life a travesty, and opens up a channel in his life to endless nightmares. He must go on relying only on his own will and wits to transmute this lawless realm in in his own image. By working thus without knowledge, in the face of absurdity, he may catch a glimpse of the Tao of action. He comes to know that neither he nor anyone else can avoid action; he plays as though the game were real, no longer sure whether it is or not, this strange magical state may annihilate his ego, because his identifications have ceased. He makes no difference between any one thing and any other because all is tainted with randomness and delirium. From this ego-loss in turn may be derived the momentum to hurl him anywhere; he may choose to struggle through his Dark Night into the light of commitment. Stripped of Spiritual conceit, he is ready for the path of power of for any way he choose. DAVE LEE.

BRIGHTNESS FIRE BY DON.

Again the Brightness Fire is Lit,
full glowing upon the hill,
The standing stones no longer encircled
empty sadness wait, and again to fill with
the knowing wonders of old renown,
Causing once more the ancient power
to sing,
and so ever nearer a new enthronement
of a Gilded Dawn,
The scales of Blindness cast aside
and they of inner true Will
set free and Reborn.

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The Great Rite; fact and phalluses



GALADRIEL'S VIEWS ON MAGICAL SEX.

At the risk of giving some of our more puritanical Wiccan readers a fit of apoplexy, I am going to write an article on SEX. Yes, Sex! That subject which one infamous witch queen said was 'All in the mind these days'. The same idiot female said in a T.V. interview that "Fertility rites are not necessary in our modern times because Mother Nature has chemical fertilizers to help. Her and they are much better"! So much bunkum has been written by modern witches about what they describe as The Great Rite, that a newcomer to the Craft must feel totally confused as to whether it exists at all; let alone what its purpose is. To start with, let me quote from a few well-known but inaccurate sources what the modern witch actually thinks of his/her fertility religion; "Today there is no need to fornicate in the fields in order to make the crops grow. Scientific methods have taken care of that" (Leo Martello 'Witchcraft the Old Religion'). "At one time The Great Rite was, essentially a fertility rite but now it symbolises a fertility of the mind...The Great Rite today is more often performed in token, than in actuality" (Maxine Sanders 'Witch Queen') "Should you complete a sexual act with your partner in your sacred temple, there will be no sexual drive left to work the magic, moreover you will have to re-purify and re-dedicate the whole room" (Gavin & Yvonne Frost; 'The Magic Power of Witchcraft')

Such are the ridiculous statements made by the self-appointed leaders of the Craft. So much confusion has been caused by such statements that beginner-witches have told me that "Sex is Evil" and that it "dirties the Circle" or that "It just isn't necessary any more". I can speak only for my own tradition but their reasoning seems totally logical to me AND I KNOW IT WORKS. In our tradition there are three reasons for the performance of ritual sexual intercourse within a holy place or temple. I will start with the historical reason. Since man first discovered the connection between copulation and fertility (and it was a lot further back than Matriarchists would have us believe) he has imbued his Gods with great sexual powers and his Goddesses with the ability to create the Earth. To early man, the coming together in the sex act of God and Goddess was what made the Earth fertile each spring. The earth was Mother, the Sun growing stronger and more potent was Father. Sex between them was necessary to create all life on the Earth. What was more natural than that man should want to emulate the gods, thinking that by his own act of sex he could add his own energy to the earth to help the crops grow. Thus the first ritualised matings were the acts of worship of the Gods. As man evolved he found he could become so totally absorbed in the moment of orgasm that he could take on the power of the God or Goddess in the rite. Indeed, if done in the correct manner and the right atmosphere, the God and Goddess could be induced to enter the bodies of the participants and possess them. Thus the rite became one of communion with the Gods a sacred and holy ritual, something more than sex for pleasure, a sacred marriage between the Gods and mankind. The Priests and priestesses knew that at the moment of orgasm, (especially so when the deities were present) a power was liberated from their bodies. They learned to control and concentrate this power and to send it to do their will. This 'Witch-power' as it was later called, could also be passed from one participant to another, the donor would very quickly re-charge and thus lost little by it. And so the Great Rite evolved as a means whereby Witch-Power is passed from initiator to new-initiate. Without this power the new-witch has a long, hard struggle to train his/her body to summon up the power on its own. But when it is passed in this manner it acts as a catalyst, considerably speeding up the Witches psychic development.

In my own tradition new members have ALWAYS been initiated sexually and power passed. Some covens insist that sexual initiation only takes place at 3rd degree. Since the Hereditary Craft do not have any degrees as such but two levels (Priest and Elder) this is an illogical rule. Anyway, isn't it a bit mean to deny a member the right to participate in psychic exercise until he/she is 3rd Degree? At any rate the candidate/initiate should be allowed to choose whether he/she wishes to affirm his/her love for the Mighty Ones in the only way you can give of yourself totally?

In the Hereditary Craft we celebrate the Great Rite at each of the eight major festivals in honour of the Lord and Lady, and their gifts to us. We use the power to heal, to help or more often we use it for its original purpose. We use it to help our Mother Earth to grow our crops and feed us. We fertilise the soil, we even on occasions 'fornicate in the fields' and I personally feel that Earth needs all the help She can get, considering all the poisons that our race throws upon Her surface. Perhaps, as Maxine Sanders says, I should be fertilising my mind, but my mind gets its fertility from elsewhere. Our family, like all other Hereditary families does not perform a token Great Rite. There is no need for the symbolic knife in the chalice. We worship as our ancestors before us, in wild and pagan abandon. We worship life and that which brings forth life. We worship Sex. And in that worship we draw close and touch the reason behind what we are. In the ecstasy of climax we become One with our Gods. We think as Gods, feel as Gods, smell, see hear and experience as Gods. We have transcended the Earthly urges and reached something that our language has no name for - In Yoga it is called Samadhi.

And so seeker, I leave you with these points to think upon. Search your heart! Are you ready for the Pagan Religion? Have you unshackled your mind from all the old tenets taught you by the Christians and moralists; that sex is dirty, that it's only for the procreation of children; that it's something best not talked about? If you believe yourself free, and you seek the old ways, the real and not the symbolic paths of the Old Religion, then search carefully. There are many who pervert the ancient rites for their own gain and many more who are embarrassed by them and prefer to ignore them. Beyond this there is a majority who do not even know that of which I write!. If you contact a coven ask them directly what their concept of the Great Rite is. Beware if they refuse to tell you - only the technique is secret, not the reasons behind it. Stick to your principles and eventually the Gods will draw you to them and you will find the path that you have been destined for. Be Blessed.

GALADRIEL.

Art of Telesmatic Imagery

A TREATISE ON THE TECHNIQUE OF FORMING ANGELIC IMAGES IN MAGIC

BY FRATER A.H.E.H'O

Hidden, deep within the pages of Dr. Israel Regardie's monumental 4 volume work, 'The Golden Dawn', lie two rare gems, two Papers intended for circulation among the Adepti Minores of that Order, namely: 'Telesmatic Figures' and 'Further on Telesmatic Figures'. As the sapphire is drawn from the earth, rugged and of crude appearance, so do we find these two Papers - archaically written, disjointed, seeming in places to be worthless, but, as the gem is cut and polished to a gleaming splendour, so do these Papers, when studied and worked upon, synthesize into a gleaming gem, a radiant sapphire, the reflected Light through which may serve to illuminate the dark pathways of the Cosmos.

To the present writer's knowledge, this technique of Telesmatic Imagery is to be found published nowhere else, save in the 'Golden Dawn'. This may seem strange, that a technique such as this has received no further commentary - yet this seems to be the case. The writer is of the opinion that such a technique should be available to all Magicians and Occultists who would care to make use of it. Did not Aleister Crowley, in 'Magick in Theory and Practice', declare "MAGICK IS FOR ALL"?

The present writer puts forward no claims of originality regarding these contents, having merely revised and enlarged the G.D. Papers, interpolating them with information and ideology cognate to the subject at hand; and shedding other irrelevant pieces to this work, which could only be of use to anyone working the G.D. system or similar. His only claim being that he feels this technique to be too important and relevant to the Western Magikal Tradition to remain hidden from a great many people who could benefit therefrom.

At first sight, it may seem, to non-Qabalistic Magicians, that this technique is of no use to themselves, being wedded to the Hebrew alphabet and the Qabalistic Tree of Life, yet the writer hopes that he has shown this to be irrelevant (Image of the Goddess Diana), and it should not deter one from adapting it to his/her own system. As a Magikal Device, it's value lies in the ability to formulate a workable Image from any Name, Word or Abstract Idea.

A Telesmatic Image is a pictorial formulation of a Force, which can be built up by combining the descriptive attributions of the Hebrew letters composing the Name of the Force, the colours attributed thereto, and other traditional symbolism; the synthesis of these devices producing a composite Image representative of the inherent nature of the Force, symbolically correct and magikally potent. In formulating such an Image, care should be taken to construct it as perfectly as possible, for in dealing with Angelic and Higher potencies one should bear in mind the Holy and Divine nature of their Office, and by using an incorrect Image would initiate a current of imperfection onto that particular Plane of existence, therefore casting contamination onto the Higher Planes. (Not to forget also, the uselessness to the magician if the symbolism be incorrect, for results other than those intended would ensue).

When formulating a Telesmatic Image, one must take into account the particular Force's traditional place in the scheme of creation. Deities are allocated to the Archetypal World of ATZILUTH, the World of Origination. Great Cosmic Forces, known as Archangels, belong to the Creative World of BRIAH. Formative potencies, termed Angels, are allocated to the Formative World of YETZIRAH. Expressive Forces, e.g.: Planetary Powers, Elemental Spirits and human beings, exist in the World of Action known as ASSIAH.

Telesmatic Images therefore correlate to the World of Yetzirah (Formative World). A Telesmatic Image can only apply to the World of Briah in a restricted, shadowy sense, and hardly at all to the Deific World of Atziluth. Thus, a Telesmatic Image of an Archangelic Force would possess a shadowy, barely visible form, with the head concealed (hidden in vapour or luminosity). It is impossible to formulate a Telesmatic Image of a God Name (Atziluth) for it would more properly represent the Form of that God correlated into the World of Yetzirah. In such a case one would visualise the Form along the same lines as a Briatic Image - shadowy etc., not forgetting that it is its correlation in Yetzirah and not a genuine Atziluthic Image.

The sex of the Image depends upon the predominance of Masculine or Feminine tendencies in the letters comprising the Name of the Force, also any traditional or other knowledge one has regarding it's nature. A mixture of the sexes in an Image should be avoided, always taking into account the inherent Balance and Equilibrium of Divine Forces. Certain Names are traditionally Masculine, some Feminine, and this should be heeded, irrespective of the testimony put forth by the total gender of the letters. For instance, the Archangel Sandalphon (attributed to the Sephiran of Malkuth and the World of Briah) is traditionally regarded as the Feminine Kerub, also, we must take note that it relates to the Briatic World. The testimony of the letters comprising the Name of Sandalphon would point to the Image as being formulated as Masculine:- Samekh - Masculine, Nun - Masculine, Daleth - Feminine, Lamed - Feminine, Peh - Feminine, Vau - Masculine, Nun - Masculine. 4 Male letters. 3 Female letters. Gender - Masculine.

But, for reasons given above (Feminine Kerub), this is an exception to the rule and is formulated as being Feminine (an example of the Telesmatic Image of Sandalphon is given below). Sandalphon is also Named 'Yetzer', meaning 'left', whose letters are:- Yod - Feminine, Tzaddi - Feminine, Resh - Masculine. Here the Feminine Gender is clearly alluded to.

On the subject of Sex and Gender, it must be borne in mind that these 'Radiating Forces of Divine Light', which we shall term 'Angelic Forces', do not ascribe to any particular Gender in the common material sense of the word, though they can be classed accordingly into a Masculine or Feminine 'nature'. To clarify this point, taking the human figure as an illustration, sex is not so obviously apparent in the head as it is in the body. Facially, some men look Feminine, and some women vice-versa; this not disputing that the countenance can actually be classified under the general heading of Masculine or Feminine. It is only when we look at the torso that we can surely differentiate between the sexes. This epicene quality of the Angelic Forces is further demonstrated by the fact that many Angelic Names terminate with -AL or -EL (Aleph Lamed); the letter Aleph carries a Masculine gender, and the letter Lamed a Feminine, thus showing the inherent 'Balance' of the Sexes therein.

Also, it can be postulated that no Man is 100% MALE, and no Woman 100% FEMALE, and upon departing from the material Plane, Sex becomes even less marked, yet it is appreciable in a different fashion; and to us human beings who operate, most of the time, upon the material Plane of Malkuth of Assiah, the distinction between Masculine and Feminine remains. (When mankind, in the symbolical guise of Adam and Eve, resided in Paradise, the Garden of Eden, their forms were co-joined and as one, Spiritual and epicene. It was only upon the event known as "The Fall" that the spiritual Adam - Eve was separated into the two Sexes and banished from their Supernal Paradise into the Material World).

The 'different fashion' of ascertaining Gender upon Higher Planes is a reference to the point that tradition ascribes to any Force that is of a vehement and rushing nature a MASCULINE Gender, and any Force that manifests or operates in a firm and steady fashion is regarded as FEMININE. To illustrate this point, the Archangel KHAMAEEL (attributed to the Sephirah Geburah and the World of Briah) represents the vehement force that breaks things down when their usefulness is finished (e.g. the human body after Death) is traditionally Masculine. It's opposite, TZADQIEL (Archangel of the Sephirah Chesed), patiently and steadily rebuilds things and restores Order to the Cosmos, is regarded as Feminine.

The example given above may also serve to demonstrate the 'dual' nature of concepts upon the Tree of Life, for Tzadqiel, Feminine, is situated upon the Right-Hand MASCULINE Pillar: and Khamael, Masculine, upon the Left-Hand FEMININE Pillar. (This is another example of the inherent Balance and Equilibrium of the Tree). Thus is the question of the Gender of a Telesmatic Image a fairly complex matter, but practice and increasing knowledge will be a sure guide, so long as one's understanding of the nature of Sex on the Higher Planes is not forgotten; but, for convenience in the formulation of Telesmatic Images of ordinary Occult Names and Words, the letter attribution of Gender is sufficient to rely upon.

When constructing a Telesmatic Image, the first letter of the Name shall represent the features of the Head of the Figure, and the final letter shall describe the feet; the medial letters representing the Torso and Members. For example, the Archangel Haniel (Netzach of Briah) would be formulated as a Telesmatic Image in the following manner:- Heh - Head, Aleph - Neck, Nun - Arms and Shoulders, Yod - Torso, Aleph - Legs, Lamed - Feet.

In this case we must take into account that this force is of an Archangelic nature, and the Name terminates in -AL (this point shall be covered below); also we must bear in mind that it is the Archangel of the Sephirah Netzach. These observations must be taken into account when formulating the Image.

The Telesmatic Image of Haniel when formulated would appear as a tall, slim yet very powerful-looking force. The face would give the impression of great inner strength, a determined countenance showing fierce valour. Large, blue wings sweep from the figure's back, encircling the legs and partly obscuring them. The body should be muscular and the arms strong, the right hand bearing a large sword. The feet are slightly apart suggesting a sure-footed stance; before them are the Scales of Justice coloured a brilliant Emerald-Green. The Image would be of a very dark, purplish complexion, yet should radiate a vibrant, vivifying atmosphere.

Although the letters of the Name are 3 Masculine and 3 Feminine, the total symbolism surrounding this Force suggests a Feminine Gender. To finish the Imagery, the Sigil of the Force (in this case Haniel) should be emblazoned upon the figure's chest, and a large belt or girdle around the waist bears the Name in Hebrew (or any other language, as one wishes) letters.

Regarding the terminations -AL or -EL and YAH; the Divine Name AL (EL) is the Name of God operating in the Sephirah CHESED, and represents a good, powerful and mighty Force, ever bearing the Sword and Scales - the symbols of Divine Justice; yet it is of milder operation than the Name of YAH, which is the Deific Name operating in the Supernal Sephirah of CHOKMA thus do few Angelic Names terminate in this Name. This point, regarding these terminations, is rather in the nature of an incidental attribution and should not be considered too highly in the formation of a Telesmatic Image, but must be included here as being part of the symbolism involved in the process.

Before some examples of Telesmatic Imagery are given, a word of warning must be administered concerning this technique; these Great Cosmic Forces are obviously not to be trifled with, one must approach this process with due solemnity and reverence as is requisite of Ceremonial Magick. To 'fool about' with this technique would be like playing with fire; a fitting admonition regarding this is given by Mr. W. G. Gray in his book "The Ladder of Lights"-

"We must get out of the bad habit of seeing Angels and Archangels as fairy-like winged creatures entirely for the good of mankind. They are units of specialised energy with an inherent awareness which enables them to accomplish or at least attempt the Original intent behind them. Angels are more like guided missiles than bodiless babies with wings".

In the next issue of L.O.T. Frater A.H.E.H'O expands on the practical aspects of constructing Telesmatic Imagery in the second and final part of his manuscript and includes the tables of attributions and correspondences needed to formulate them.

OCCULT NETWORK

NETWORK IS AN ESTABLISHED SERVICE EXTENDING FROM THE CONTACT SERVICE RUN BY THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS. IT HAS PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE AND OF HIGH QUALITY. ANYONE CAN INSERT AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION FOR FREE ON THE PERROGATIVE OF THE EDITORS. SEND YOUR BRIEF ADVERTISEMENT TO THE EDITORIAL ADDRESS OF THE L.O.T. 4-8, Burley Lodge Road, Leeds LS6. 1QP. Box Numbers are only available to those individuals we know personally and can vouch for. All others must include either their name and address or name and telephone number.

ISOLATED student of the mysteries, aged 20, would like to contact people/groups of gabbalistic and pagan persuasions. Stridly R.H.P. This is a genuine advertisement and offer of friendship from a sincere student. David Kime, 170 Somerby Hill, Grantham. Lincs.

FENLANDS Pagan contacts sought. Sheila Phillip 0945 2266.

MALE WITCH seeks contact with others in Leeds/Bradford area. Also for interested parties wishing to learn the craft. Please write in first instance to; Mr. G. Mitchell, 37, Cranbrook Avenue, Odsal, Bradford. BD6. 1JF.

TRADITIONAL WICCAN COVEN NOW FORMING in Ipswich, sincere seekers only need write. No callers in first instance. Write giving details of self to Linda & Nigel, c/o, 13, Margate Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. Both sexes welcome, singles or couples. Definitely no thrill seekers.

CONTACT WANTED WITH BRITISH MAGICIANS White Magic only. Alex Henriette, c/o F.E.B.A. Box 234, Seychelles, Indian Ocean.

REFORMED ORDER OF MODERN WICCA runs groups with very high standards, in a traditional mode of working through South Wales and West Country. Genuine seekers only please write: R.O.M.W. 'Ten Oaks' 63, Third Avenue, Teignmouth, Devon.

ALISON WISHES TO JOIN or form a Coven in the Salford area of Greater Manchester. Write first to. A.D. Burns, 514, Cannon Green court, King St. Trinity, Salford, 3. Lancs.

MYSTIC WOULD LIKE to write to other occultists, exchange notes and experiences etc. Write: Box 111 The Sorcerer's Apprentice. L.O.T. etc.

BEGINNER AGED 21 wishes to learn the simple basic aspects of the Right Hand Path of Occultism. Other interests are U.F.O's Atlantis/ Pre-History. (50,000 to 5,000 B.C.) Mr W. Broadmore, 166, White Road, Quinton, Birmingham B32, 2SY. Tel. 021.422.7689.

16 YEAR OLD NEWCOMER to Occultism needs to contact Trustworthy individuals and groups who can assist in practical magical work and magical development. Interests are: Ritual Magic/Astral Projection; Meditation, Talismans etc. Write: Nalin Patel, 91, Arncliffe Terrace, Bradford 7.

DEDICATED PAGAN MALE 23 years old Ecologist, conservationist and animal lover, wishes to join coven in the Yorks/Lancs area. Tradition not important. Sincerity and an open minded approach is. I am well read on all aspects of the Old Ways and have some practical experience. I have met many occultists of varied paths but have yet to meet any that I am in complete harmony with both in mind and aims. Are there any joyous Harmonious dedicated Pagans out there? Write to: Simon R. Musk, 7, Wynford Mount, West Park, Leeds LS16. 6J.J.H. No callers to begin with.

CANCIERIAN FEMALE, 34 yrs, seeks practising Wiccan. Must be R.H.P. only, willing to teach the Art. Will work hard with the right teacher! Female preferred but male no objections to. St. Albans or near area only. Write: Mrs June Rice, 9, Garston Lane, Garston, Watford, Herts. No callers initially. Genuine seeker.

SERIOUS FEMALE OCCULTIST seeks contacts with those on the left hand Path, Satanists, with a view to opening coven in this area, for magic in the widest sense. Sex Magic & Tantra etc. Letters welcomed by all serious workers. No callers initially. Betty, Flat 3. 671 Chester Road, Erdington, Birmingham. 23.

CONTACTS WANTED by sole practitioner of ritual magic DDCF 1'-10' QBL.Thelema; Dianic Witchcraft, from Huson/Browley/Mathers influenced. Write: P. Macgregor Nelson, 127, Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21. 8AJ.

WICCA first degree initiate urgently seeks group to work with for festivals and further training. Philip Cozens, 47, Laggan Road, Maidenhead Berks or phone Maidenhead 38115 or Littlewick Green 6426 DISCREETLY.

29 YEAR OLD INDIAN, requires a male partner to experimtn in Hindu magic and or solomnic magic, as depicted in the Key of Solomon; if interest ed, please write to M. Azam. 4-05. Victoria Centre, Nottingham. Note: Honest, serious and determined person only.

INTEREST IN WHITE MAGIC ONLY. contacts invited. No callers initially: write to; B. Juszkievicz. 5, Harper Avenue, Wednesfield, West Midlands.

DONNA WISHES TO CONTACT OTHER WITCHES FOR CORRESPONDENCE AND EXCHANGE OF RELATED VIEWS. Write only to: 35a, Semilong Road, Northampton.

ACCOMPLISHED OCCULTISTS is seeking female apprentices. I have been inundated with males but must have a balance. Write: Peter Lord, BM/PAL Condon. W.C.I.V. 6.XX.

THE SPIRITUAL SEDUCTION OF LADY MACBETH (EXTRACTED FROM THE UNWRITTEN MACBETH BY H. GEORGE)

A Witch:

Act now we must, and quick,
For the season is ripe,
For tonight clawing in the witches flight,
Amid the half-seen cloven visions,
Of the speckled mushroom's night,
twas given us unhallowed power,
To destroy yon Macbeth's fair flower.

See how 'pon her naked belly she writes,
Like a serpent on this forest floor,
With the mushroom's babbling's in her brain,
Bidding her eat of the fresh picked Henbane.
And in the dizzy deasil dance,
Macbeth she sees no more, but instead,
Only the master upon her, on the mossy floor.

We have her now, as on this floor,
He the master does her detain,
As he freely gives untought-of pleasure

with pain.
Her ecstatic groans and screams do drown,
The bagged-cat wailings from;
Yon distant battle ground,
Where Macbeth great fame has found.

From yonder slaughter they come,
Macbeth and Banquo, sword in hand,
To gain a little respite,
From the Bloody Battle now ripe.

See here, Macbeth. His image in the cup.
Whose gory swelled chest,
Doth appease our Master's jest.

2nd. Witch:
Dawn breaks, let's away before our husbandmen,
Awake from their deep and enchanted sleep.

3rd Witch:
Macbeth and Banquo leave the battle now!

1st Witch:
Leave? Not yet for us!
For 'tis deemed that we three,
Shall meet them both,
On this dark dire and deedful day.

Alchemy: beginning Work

Many people, regretfully, still have a most prejudiced and limited idea of Alchemy. They see Alchemy as a mad and fruitless pursuit of the secret of transmuting base metals into gold, the childish ramblings of ignorant medieval untutored philosophers. Well that has been the image perpetuated by the 19th and 20th Century academic historians of science. They nurtured the illusion that Alchemy was merely an early naive precursor of modern chemistry. But we will come to see that it is modern Chemistry that is the child and Alchemy the senior partner. Anyone who takes the trouble to investigate the nature of Alchemy, to read their way into the subject with an open mind, will find this picture quite untenable. For what one does meet in Alchemy is a vast system of ancient spiritual Wisdom. Now let us look to the source of alchemy both in it's spiritual as well as physical history. Alchemy has always been with us since the earliest times when Man saw the indwelling spirit in material things and processes. The word itself, takes us back to ancient Egypt, some 6 thousand years ago. AL-KHEM 'al' the arabic definite article, and 'Khem' an arabic word with ancient Egyptian roots, meaning The Black Earth., often used to refer to the land of Egypt itself. It is indeed fitting to find Egypt giving its name to this ancient spiritual science, for the high Egyptian civilisation certainly had an amazing creative awareness of the spirit in matter, and constructed Temples and Pyramids where the physical architecture and spiritual form come together. Many references are also found in the Egyptian papyri to recognisable alchemical ideas and processes. There are also Hindu and Chinese traditions of Alchemy which go back to a very early period.

Now I want to look at the way in which this was transferred to the West. Around about the fourth century B.C. Alexander the Great established the city of Alexandria on the Nile Delta, during the Greek presence in Egypt, and through the centuries for about 1,000 years this city and it's great library was the centre of a repository of all the ancient spiritual wisdom from the mystery centres of Egypt, Greece, Persia, India, Chaldea and the Jews. During the expansion of Islam, the Arabs overran the city and destroyed the vast fund of ancient manuscripts in the Alexandrian Library. Wisdom, in itself, however, cannot be destroyed, and so it found it's way with the Arabs into Moorish Spain in about the 11th Century, and thence by means of various wandering scholars into Europe. Thus beginning in the 11th Century a vast stream of Mystery Wisdom flowed into Northern Europe - Astrology, Mathematics, Algebra, and of course, Alchemy. In this early period of Alchemy in Europe the 12th and 13th centuries, we find great names like Ramon Lully, Arnold of Villanova, Roger Bacon, Albertus Magnus. They bring this stream of ancient spiritual wisdom into Northern European culture and thus we have the beginning of a marvellously creative nourishment of the human soul, which evolved as the Alchemical Tradition through into the 17th Century.

Of later figures we can mention John Dee, who was respected for his wisdom obtained through his interest in Alchemy and other esoteric systems, that he acted as a valued advisor to Queen Elizabeth I: also Dr. Robert Fludd, a physician who lived in London and attended King James I. wrote extensively on Alchemical philosophy, and is particularly well known for the most beautiful engravings which illustrate his works. Later in the 17th Century, Sir Isaac Newton, the great founder of modern physical science, was so deeply involved in the study of Alchemy, that his Alchemical research notes by far outweigh in quantity all his other writings.

Alchemy can thus be seen as an extract, an essence of the Wisdom of the ancient mysteries, and as it poured into medieval Europe it provided an inward nourishment for the evolving soul, and had a profound influence on the development of Northern European civilisation. Spiritually, Alchemy held in trust for Mankind an ancient wisdom of the spiritual dimension inherent in the material realm. We have looked at Alchemy from the outside but, as a mystical tradition, Alchemy has an inward dimension. The pursuit of Alchemy is the development of higher states of consciousness, and contained in this tradition is one of the Keys to personal spiritual evolution.

I would like to indicate something of the way in which Alchemy can be practised today, so that we don't fall into the trap of thinking of Alchemy as something dead and belonging only to the past. As a creative ongoing tradition, Alchemy can be practised through various systems of exercises. Perhaps I can indicate the main forms here. Firstly: Experimental or Experiential method. This involves training oneself to look at the world around us in a new way. In everyday consciousness, we see the world as solid physical substance, and tend to think that this is the sum total of experience a materialism that arises out of the act of perception. The Alchemist however looks at the world differently. He looks at the forces that uphold this outward appearance. He sees the physical as an interweaving of the elements: Earth, Water, Air, and Fire, which to him are forces. If one gazes into the natural world, say at a plant, with this awareness, and see how the Earth forces work in the plant, how the plant being moulds and forms the watery element, that the airy forms are woven into plant substance through the gift of light, and how the warmth element enters into the formation of blossom and fruit, one comes to see, alchemically that the plant is not mere lumps of matter, but a centre of a complex of forces, a weaving of energy patterns.

Other Alchemical ideas can be used in this way, in addition to the four elements, we have the three Principles, the Salt, Sulphur and Mercury forces, and the Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus Mercury and Moon, are not only the planetary bodies to the Alchemist, as he uses these names to refer to the seven archetypal formative forces found on the Earth all around us and within our own bodies. All these ideas are used by the Alchemist to structure his outward concentration upon the world.

So this is the beginning of becoming an Alchemist, to look at the world anew as being formed and woven out of forces. We can all practice this in our own way as a creative experience.

The second method we can begin to practice involves working through meditation with the symbolism of Alchemy. Much of alchemical writings are composed of symbolic pictures which were designed by the Alchemists as aids to mediation. The inward absorption in the symbolism of Alchemy begins to develop and strengthen a consciousness within oneself of the architecture of the soul, Man's inner nature and form, and anyone who works with these over a number of years, will begin to feel inwardly, a harmonisation of the different forces and structures within their being. Many of these Archetypal Symbols in Alchemy are arranged in sequences which mirror the process of inner development. Many of the diagrams are mandalas, that intergrate and bring together through meditation, the disparate elements of the soul. Anyone can begin to practice this inner meditation.

Thirdly, we can work with the Alchemical texts themselves, puzzling and pondering long over their import and spiritual content seeking the deepest layers of meaning contained in these writings. This is not an easy task, as the early Alchemists purposely hid their meaning in paradox and intricate confusions of symbolism and allegory, but it is this act of unravelling the mystery that is in itself a form of spiritual training, a spiritual development.

Behind all this paradox, one can penetrate to an awareness that Alchemy reveals a Cosmic Science, that within this mystical tradition,

there was an awareness of great cosmic secrets about the destiny of matter, that matter is a crystallisation of spirit, a precipitation of spirit, that this potentiality still lies bound in material substance, and that man is the only being who can reveal this hidden, this entombed spirit. The Macrocosm cannot be separated from the Microcosm. Man cosmically, has the task therefore, of the spiritualisation of the material world. With this awareness that can grow out of deep contemplation of Alchemical writings, one can begin to feel that Man has a place in the Cosmic order, a vital part to play in spiritual evolution.

So these three facets of Alchemy, transmutation of our outward perception, the harmonisation of the soul forces through meditation on the archetypal symbolism, and the profound awareness of the Cosmic aspect of Man's destiny, were practiced hundreds of years ago in the Alchemical tradition and can still be practiced today.

We can begin to see a point of contact between the ancient Alchemists' awareness that matter arose out of the interplay of forces and the researches of the high energy sub-atomic particle physics. ie. Matter beings to behave as energy. Also in this century, the inner realm of Man, the psyche or soul, has been found to be structured in various patterns, and one of the foremost researchers in this field, the psychologist and psychoanalyst Carl Jung, found that this inner structure of the psyche that he had investigated for many years had been presupposed by 16th Century and 17th Century Alchemists. Much of Jung's later writings revolve around alchemical ideas. In the last decade, an awareness of the Cosmic aspect of Man's destiny is just beginning to make its impact on outer life. We have begun to see over the last few years, the development of a new respect for the physical realm, an earnest wish to work with the life forces on this planet and not against them. In a sense we can see the birth of a New Alchemy transforming physical forces through alternative technology to meet spiritual needs, and with a consciousness of the spiritual aspect of the world.

I hope that I have been able to present a clearer picture of Alchemy; As a historical impulse that brought the wisdom of the Ancient Mysteries of the Middle East; Greece and Egypt to our land; as a path of inner development with profound depths, still able to be used today and finally, I hope that we can all begin to see that Alchemy is still working as a source of inspiration and will contribute towards the development of a New Age.

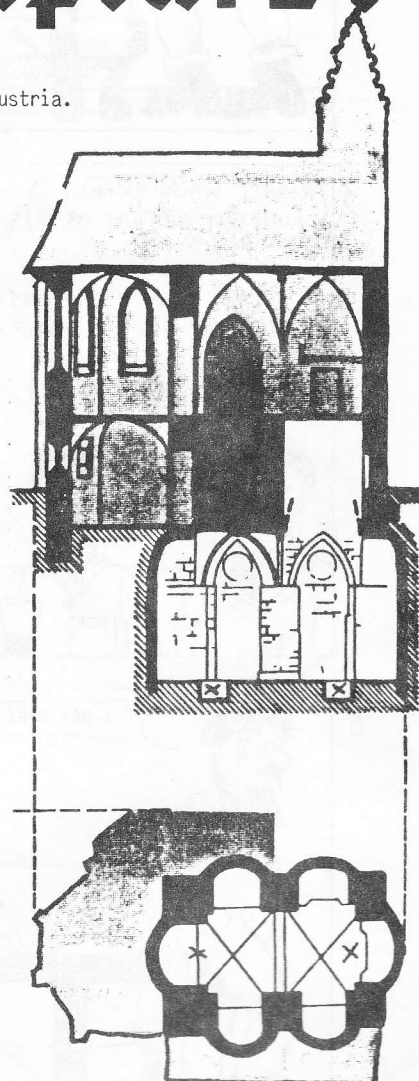
I also hope though I have kept to generalities due to restrictions on space, that enough has been given to inspire some of you to Investigate this much neglected and misunderstood Ancient Science which is The Great Work. ADAM MCLEAN.

Adam McLean Publishes The Hermetic Journal, quarterly Alchemical Magazine and a number of limited edition works on Alchemy. He can be contacted at 12 Antigua Street, Edinburgh 1. Scotland. Send an S.A.E.

Tomb of the Templars?

During 1978 preparations were made to extend the subway network for the underground Metro in Vienna, Austria.

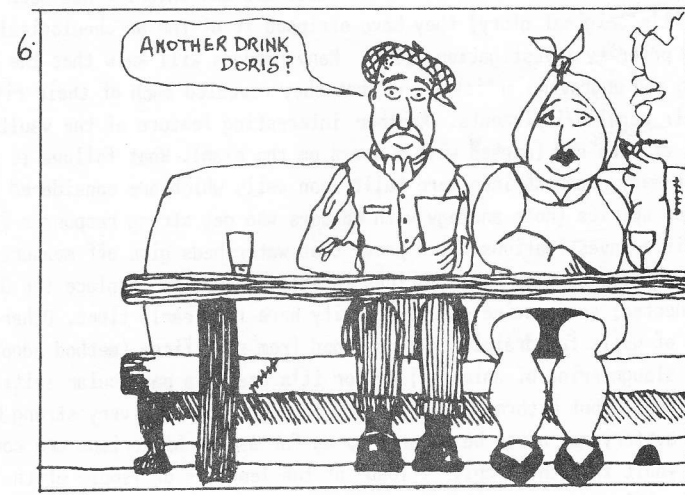
As with most engineering problems of this nature care was taken not to undermine any of the historical monuments at ground level. This particular line passed very close to the 17th Century Church of Maria Magdalena and St. Virgil which stands almost in the centre of the Old Town. Whilst preparing drive tunnels near the church workmen broke into a hitherto unknown underground vault directly beneath the building. Historians and archeologists (there are many concerned with preservation of Viennese relics and buildings) could not trace any account of this secret vault in the archives. The illustration shows how the plans of the church and vault lie. To occultists this vault is of great importance as revealed within the 'crypt' as the archeologists have erroneously titled the vault, are quite distinct, large Templar Crosses marking the quarters! Templarism, which emerged in 1119 was at its most powerful in the late 13th C., until driven underground (so to speak) by Phillip III of France. As the Church of Mary Magdalene in Vienna was finished in 1609 the ramifications are considerable. If this vault does indeed prove to be a hidden Templar sanctuary it would have been impossible for the hierarchy who supervised the building of the Church not to have known of its existence as the footings of the Church Spire directly bear on the walls of the vault! The Archeologists, little interested in occult politics, have labelled the vault a crypt; this being the most likely use as far as their unvisionary minds are concerned. The unfortunate thing is that whilst they are to be congratulated in their efforts at preservation of the vault (the Metro tunnel was carefully built to one side of the vault and the interior has been professionally and capably restored to its original glory) they have stripped it of the archeological finds and stored these away at a low priority investigation level. Many readers will know that the Templars were known for their carving and engraving artistry and that they revealed much of their rites and laws via the symbolism of their regalia/implements. Another interesting feature of the vault is that two wells have been sunk one at each end (marked with a cross on the plan). What follows is only conjecture but it is known that many pagan shrines were built upon wells which are considered by sensitives to be the haunts of water spirits (note analogy with dowzers who get strong responses from running water, and recent scientific investigations which prove that watersheds give off measurable electrical power) As the Church adopted many Pagan shrines in its attempt to displace the Old Religion there could have been connected; consecutive occult activity here from early times. Other reasons may have been that the use of wells for draining excess blood from sacrifices (method adopted up to quite recently for the slaughtering of animals); or for its use in a particular initiation ritual. This may sound improbable but Mithraism was and is, in some groups, a very strong Cult. In any event why two wells? The mystery may never be cleared up as far as the historians are concerned for they have despatched the vault into the archives. Tomb of the Templars or Temple of the Templars? Or What? To ensure that some pressure is put on the Viennese authorities we suggest interested readers write for more information to Frau Lowenstein, Albertini Museum, Augustiner Strasse, Vienna, Austria, and pursue the point we have been trying to make. The Editors



ARTHUR MICKLETHWAITE..

.... Yorkshire Zen Master.

BY P.D. BROWN.



AUNT SALLY'S PROBLEM PAGE

DEAR AUNT SALLY, Am I, by enclosing my home and family according to my own faith, every night, repelling both friend and enemy alike? Will my defence against ill-wishers also act as an attack against well-wishers? Is there any way to conjure a 'filter'? I obey when I'm asked to help, or 'called-out' on the other planes, but am I breaching my own defences and exposing my loved ones to danger? It happened once when my husband was attacked by snakes in his dreams, and I had to 'come back' in a furious flash to wake him and tell him how to dispel any future intruders. I also had a similar experience with one of my children. The only apparent after-effects were headaches all round and a 'hangover' the next day, and a rather increased dependence on Mum's omnipotence, which is very, very far from true. I should add that I am extremely fortunate in having a fantastic rapport with one of my Siamese cats who can usually contact me if I am needed at home, but what if she is with me on one of these occasions. I know my duty and will always obey, but the doubt remains, what do you think? M.B. Glasgow.

ANSWER: Interfering with another's Karma, even in a good sense, is considered evil by many advanced occultists. Before we attempt to influence another, for good or bad, we must first decide whether we have the omniscience to be able to decide what is the best thing to do under the circumstances. As we are as a species patently incapable of making even the most mundane decisions that will affect our status quo even when no other person can be as close to the situation as ourselves (when in love for example) it behoves us to think twice about deciding what is best for somebody else. Is it best to cuckold another person and cushion him/her from the realities of their own Karma? Surely not? It is precisely the Lords of Karma (for the want of a better expression) that have engineered the problem/situation in the first place so this other person can learn his/her lesson from life. The responsibility of one human to another is no more than that person's responsibility to him/herself. Would you deprive a person of their spiritual freedom? On the other hand there are occasions when help is needed. It is the person from whom the help is asked who has to decide whether help is really needed. In so many situations it is simply a question of the one who is troubled who is trying to 'short cut' his/her own responsibilities. No matter how this type of person pleads and cajoles you it is Mercy in Severity that produces the right outcome for them as far as their personal spiritual emancipation is concerned. In short, as long as you realise that your help may be hindering your own magical evolution and are willing to make the sacrifice you must do what you think fit calling things to an end the moment you realise that you are depriving the individual you are attempting to help of their own evolutionary motivation. There is no magical 'filter' other than your own degree of choice. This is what makes you evolutionary superior to the rest of the living things on the Earth plane. Man has the ability of choice but should treasure that capacity and use his judgement sparingly.

DEAR AUNT SALLY. I wonder if you could put me in touch with a group or person for a bit of advice on what to do when you get Spiritual Enlightenment? I mean what to do with the actual realisation that all is one, after you have seen it for a moment. I was very happy for a while. I thought I had cracked it, but you start thinking and you find your views have altered so much you fall out of touch with 'ordinary' life. You start to see the game of life so to speak; see it's sham. I feel I've sat in the stalls long enough and I feel I ought to be taking action but what action? There must be something I can do. Anyhow I could do with joining up somewhere if only for a natter. You tend to feel a bit out of it sometimes. I am interested in the Old Religions; Egyptian, Witchcraft etc. Although I don't want to prance about naked, it's just not me. I am interested in the mystery of it. I suppose I just want to learn. The mundane seems even more mundane these days and I feel I have to do something but I don't know what. What can I do? **ANSWER:** Your problem is that you are beset with 'Establishment' ideas about the Occult which have been implanted in your consciousness from an early date. Because of these wrong ideas you have, you are in fear of an involvement which may turn out to be evil and at the same time have no real idea of where you can go to progress in your evolution. The Mystical way is never easy and problems and decisions occur daily that effect your state of being. These are pushed at us by Karma and are there to be overcome. What one must do to ensure that you assist yourself is to IMMERSE YOURSELF in as much of Occultism as you can. Read the books that are available, read the magazines that are available; pick up conversations that involve the spiritual, talk with others who are, even slightly, interested in spiritual things. Write off for information to everyone and make as many contacts as you can, professionally and informally. Go to exhibitions that are in any way connected with the Occult, even if only slightly, and do not be afraid of involving yourself. You can always say NO at any time. Work hard, think brightly; ask many questions of everyone but believe nobody. It is every individual's birthright to grow in spiritual evolution but it has to be worked for and earned. We would also advise that you consider taking an advertisement in the L.O.T.'s NETWORK contact advert section. If you carefully stipulate that you desire written contact only to begin with your fears of being contacted by those of an 'evil' disposition will not come to fruition. If you fail in your search YOU HAVE ONLY YOURSELF TO BLAME.

DEAR AUNT SALLY : Over the last couple of months we seem to have suffered one problem after another (mainly financial). No matter how hard we try, everything seems to backfire on us. Just recently my husband lost his job for no apparent reason, which didn't help us any. We were wondering if perhaps we have some sort of Karmic debt which we are fighting against, and if so, is there anything we can do about it? Somehow nothing seems to be working for us. We both desperately want to continue our studies into magick but we need more books and equipment. I know this may sound phoney, if not suspicious but we wondered if you knew of any spell or ritual that might help bring us some cash? We are both pretty fed up at the moment and really need some help? J. P.G. Manchester. **ANSWER** We seem to be on an explanation trip of Karma in this issue so here we go with the heavy one... Life is designed cosmologically to ensure that each individual grows and evolves to their utmost within their lifespan. Much of this growth is karmically based i.e. are lessons that the individual has to learn which are basic to the experience of any and every individual and are the foundations of his higher search. These things are what the layman calls problems. Many of these problems seem insignificant but ALL contribute to the individual's evolution. If the lessons that are brought to the individual by way of Karma are not rectified and assimilated by him/her they do not simply go away. This is when the real trouble starts. By failure to identify the MEANINGFULNESS of a 'lesson of karma' one defeats the object of the lesson and the Karma will return in a different guise to prompt the individual with more 'lessons' of a similar ilk. If the individual, either through ignorance or through false desires or stubbornness does not heed the lessons of Karma he BECOMES OUT OF SYNCHRONISATION with his True Will and things start to go badly wrong. Everything that he/she attempts is thwarted and they keep getting 'thrown back' onto difficult times. If this is compounded by further action of a logical (which may not always be the right one) response to clear the situation, the individual then becomes so 'lost' that he/she begins to put a 'strain' on the Universe because the universe is 'powered' in its evolution by the microcosm of man. This means that they are moving against the current of the universe and cannot possibly achieve success at anything at this point. If the 'signs' are still ignored the justice of the Universe responds and dispenses with the 'ignorant one' as 'waste fuel' and all manner of cataclysms and even death may ensue. Obviously it behoves

EVERYONE regardless of their occult path to ensure that they continually strive to complete their 'education' in this life. Those that, by the use of magic and self-understanding/mystical techniques, begin to learn to identify with the Tao or current of the Universe find that their way becomes simple and easy (although never 'chushy') and is the art of achieving atonement with ones True Will. Beyond these basic fundamentals, of course, there are many other secrets to consider of spiritual evolution and use of the Tao in magic etc. Suffice to say that for the person in the doldrums the secret is this LIFE CAN NEVER BE UTOPIAN. Malkuth (the Earth Dimension) is designed to be tricky and difficult, effortful and weary. To point out the bright spots/experiences and ignore the pits of despair is not just optimistic it is foolhardy and a denegation of the individuals responsibility to himself and Mankind. By all means one must enjoy life but true mystical enjoyment is an appreciation of the Validity of bad as well as good experiences. To point out all the bad bits and ignore the true meaning of them is a silly thing to do but to apportion a streak of despair to ones lot without realising that it is because of our own renegarding of our true potentials; our own mistakes and misunderstandings, is tantamount to committing spiritual suicide. YOU are responsible for yourself TOTALLY. If you are in the pit of despair YOU got yourself there either by your apathy or mis-judgement. If YOU don't do something about it then you will suffocate. Why stagnate when all you have to do is force your way out of the heap and begin to build up your vibrations to that of the Universal Current. The first step is this realisation then you are on your way. DEAR AUNT SALLY. I am 18 years of age and was brought up to believe in the Christian FAITH. I have to attend Church on a Sunday because my family goes. I sing the Hymns and say the prayers but these mean nothing to me because I do not believe in the Christian faith but have come to terms with it. The Oldest Religion is the Pagan Religion. This Britain of ours was once entirely Pagan and was with us before Christianity yet the vicar of my Parish says that Witchcraft is blasphemous and sinful and is the devil's work. The vicar says that Witchcraft should be swept from our sight. Do you think I am Blasphemous? I only stand for what I believe in. White Witchcraft is the true religion Christianity is not and if there is any religion that needs sweeping out it should be Christianity. What do you think? Mark Limback, York. ANSWER. Well, Well! Your conclusions concerning Christianity are correct Mark. The Church is not a religious organisation anymore but a political organisation and as such it tries to co-erce and control it's members. Occultism on the other hand gives absolute freedom to it's devotees - but still holds them responsible for their actions on a greater scale. Christians can live with Occultists if they will understand that there are many other paths to Godhead than through Christ solely. If they can see that then they will understand. If they do not see it you will never persuade them otherwise. It's horses for courses all the way down the line. What you have to decide (and it looks as though you have done so from your letter) is which course YOUR horse will follow. Lastly, DO NOT fall into the trap of thinking that there is anything 'nice' or 'cosy' about Occultism/Paganism. Whilst it is true that the Pagan Ideals are Natural and in tune with the Universal current and that they are usually 'romantically' inclined and gregarious it does not follow that this path will defer all your problems and make life easy for you. Expect MORE difficulties than with 'normal' religion and you will be able to learn your lessons well. The Occult does not avoid problems for you. It actually sorts them out and presents them to you especially. The Idea is that by surmounting the difficulties you learn precious wisdom and evolution of spirit enabling the 'nice' bits to be enjoyed all that much more.

OCCULT BOOK REVIEWS

BY THE NORTHERN GNOME



- THE MAGIC OF THE RUNES (Michael Howard) Aquarian Press. 95p. Subtitled The Origins and Occult Power; secret alphabet of the ancients. This information packed little book must NOT be missed by anybody with the slightest interest in Rune Magic. An eminently practical book it has a very valuable chapter on the nitty-gritty of Casting spells by Runes and much information on divination with runes. Contents include an explanation of the Druidic alphabet too. Recommended. Available from S.A. & other good bookshops. Written from an intense Pagan angle.
- AN OUTLOOK ON THE INNER WESTERN WAY (William G. Gray) Weiser Publishing. £3.95. Those of you who have read any of W.G. Gray's work will realise that this man is one of the last great ritualists and has of late concentrated his efforts into the Magical tradition of Britain on the assumption that our own system will be more potent for us than any 'imported' brand. His latest work is a profound and practical application of his researches which bring together Pagan and Qabbalistic attitudes to form an understanding of the underlying techniques in all magic of inner self. Important chapters on the role of secrecy and Self sacrifice will assist many serious occultists to channel their energies in a more workmanlike way and his breakdown of the evolution of British magical tradition is eminent. Completing with Gray's ideas on where the magical Tradition of Britain should develop and how the student can best take advantage of it this book will become, like many of his others, a classic of magical literature in the years to come. If you are Pagan read it. If you are a Qabbalist don't miss it. The way ahead is clear. Obtainable from all good bookshops and the S.A..
- METAL MAGIC (M. Eydert) £3.95. Turnstone Press. Subtitled The Esoteric properties and uses of metals this book is NOT to do with P.K. or Uri Geller. It is a workmanlike reference work for practical occultists on the spiritual use and magical importance of metals. Their soul values and health values; Esoteric history and useage. In a way a book on practical Alchemy that works through all the planes. (e.g. for severe backache rub the affected area with a piece of pure Tin; for arthritis infuse tin in water; 10 grammes to a litre, and apply to joint over several days). A very interesting and applicable work on using Metals in Occultism. Easy to read style. Available from S.A. & good bookshops.
- THE CHINESE ANIMAL ZODIAC (Carlyle Pushong) £3.00 Regency Press. Chinese Astrology has always fascinated other astrologers but to date the only books on the subject have been very cursory. This new work by Mr Pushong is an attempt to convey the true potential of Chinese Animal Zodiac and their astrology and includes cosmological reference for each sign to the Taoist theory; the elements; chinese alchemy etc. it's main proposition however is to reveal the more arcane symbolism behind the signs so that they can be applied to the individual's spiritual possibilities and evolution. Written in Carlyle Pushong's direct and succinct style it's breakdown of the correspondences of Chinese Astrology will help anybody who is seriously interested in learning of it. Available from S.A. & other good bookshops.
- INTRODUCTION TO THE I-CHING (Tom Riseman) 95p Aquarian Press. An ideal starter book for those wanting to begin study of the chinese system of philosophy and divination known as the I-Ching. A condensed and workable interpretation of the most famous of ancient divination systems. After reading and using this book (full info is given on casting coins and drawing stalks) the enthusiastic beginner will be able to percieve the true potential of the I-Ching and work up to more advanced tracts. An ideal introduction true to the system. Available from bookshops & S.A.

ARFUR WIZZARD

THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF AN ORDINARY OCCULTIST PART 2.

'THE LEGIONS OF HELL'

(TO BE READ IN A LITTING WEST-HAM DIALECT/IDIOM)



BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF ARFUR WIZZARD.

In response to many enquiries. Arfur was born in London 28 years ago and spent his early career experimenting with replica voodoo dolls of his Geography master. Expelled from school at the age of 12 for organising fascist rallies in the school bog and for sacrificing the headmaster's cat in emulation of Crowley

Wew, Wew Wew! Ellow from good 'Ald Arfur ta all my fans. Before I tells yer abaht dis issues episode from da advenchers of me and my mob at Avebury Circle, like what I said I would do lahtst time, I want ta make a profahnd statement don't I?. It is not often that a Genius ov my standin' gets such worldwide acclaim as whot as been received via da mailbox in response ta my populer article ov da lahtst issue. I want ta fank all my disciples everywhere for thear continued support. It's real chuffing it is, real heartnin' ta find that so many intelligunt people think I am omniscient like. And as for da rest, I want 'em ta know dat I ain't goin' ta send anyfin' aftah em just cos they ain't supplicatin' and payin' hom-age to me; - But I may do that next week if they don't write then. Anyways. Back ta da plot.

It was one of them dull, misty wintery days when we gets ta Avebury Stone Circle. Chalkie's combi ad broken dahn twice and ran outa petrol once on the way there. It was late October'cos we reckoned that the Aquarian freaks and sightseers would 'ave pissed off by then and we could 'ave an uninterrupted time ta perform dis speshul rite. we 'ad planned see. Anyways there's me an' Anna in the sidecar and Chalkie drivin' with Bert ridin' Pillion, and it's yer typical English wheaver init?. Glowering clouds scutterin' across da horizon; flashes of light drizzle, and ve wind lashin' yer legs wiv' yer hellbottoms Mind you. The trip dahn wasn't all that bad. Charlies' sidecar is a bit old yasee, not exactly a grass-trackin' outfit it aint. Too right! Wew as we are goin' along the damp astmosphere causes the yellowed and stained perspex windahs to steam up don' it, so me an Anna cahnt see out, and by the same logic nobody can see in eh? eh?. So we as an appy alf hour and steam up the windahs some more dahnt we.

Back to da plot. Da purpose of dis 'ere expedition is ta prove ta Bert dat workin' outdoors don't make an 'apporth a difference to da result of yer magics. We were talkin late one night back at da flat and this 'ere point of discension comes up don' it. Wew, I ask yer, the supreme ipsismus of dis 'ere group cahnt 'ave first degree upstahts like Bert challengin' is superiority nah can we? Course not. So 'ere we are at Avebury, ready ta show Bert all abaht how I can control them Earth Energies and get supah dupah results in or aht of da temple. Bert sez dat Avebury's a particularly strong site see, so I takes up is challenge and 'ere we are!

When we gets ta da site it's late aftahnoon an just as we predicted what wiv da bad weaver and all there's only us abaht. It's already gettin'quite dark so nahs the time ta get the gear out. Chalkie goes back ta da combi and we see im reappear carryin' the Ex.W.D. munition box dat we always use ta keep all the elemental weapons and paraphernalia in back at da temple. Bert's always complainin abaht using this box in e. Says it'll throw a Martial Bias to our workings. E's got some bloody silly ideas 'as Bert. I tells 'im when he comes this one that I likes the box cos I AM MARTIAL. He nods funny like and says that I is right (still gotta work that one aht. Bert doesn't usually give up that easy) Anyways we get the things ready an 'ave a furtive look rahnd ta see if anyone as clocked us. It's all clear so we strip off outside da circle and Anna stands there lookin' all statuesque like, then I realises it's cos her skin 'as tightened and gone all goosey wiv da cold. Imposing her body is; like marble. Just then I notices Chalkie gettin all worked up and stary so I makes 'im stay behind one of the standing stones till his ardour cools off. Cheek! He normally isn't taken wiv Anna when she's nude. I got prior claim so she's out on hi of his reach so ta speak and he usually just ignores it like it dahnt affect im. Wonder why this time is different? Maybe it's Bert's Earth Energies Eh? Eh?. Haw Haw! Con! Still, I ad better watch 'im, just in case.

It's dark now and Anna has cahst the Dark and Purple. The candles are all lit and the Altar arranged. Just ta show clever-dick Bert I am goin' ta evoke da Spirit of Bael tonight! The Big One! Wew, I always sayz if you is gonna do somfin you as got ta do it right eh? This is da first time I ever conjured a Demon aht of doors so I must admit I ain't too lookin' forward to it but in for a penny in for a pahnd. For all of my fans what 'aint eard of Bael, he's da first King of Hell He is, that's all. Amongst is powah is making yer invisible. Tonight I is going ta be made invisible aint I?. This will be the ultimate truth ta Old Bert (It'll make me sit up and take notice too, I'll tell yer!)

So, wiv du solemnity I sets up da triangle of art and gets to it. After a boring 2 of an hour of the usual rigmarole and charges and constraints, we is all gettin a bit exnaisted aint we. There's lots of Powah abaht like, you can feel it pulsing through the atmosphere. It's cold, but electric. Chalkie's knees are knocking and I can't tell whether it's the cold or fear what's doin it. Still Nuffin appears. Then, all of a sudden, there's dis loud crouking sound from over near the Iriangle. Everybody looks at me and there eyes grow large. Ya see, Bael sometimes, if 'es a mind, sometimes appears as a load! I steps forward one foot at a time and holds aht one of da Altar candles. The scene horrified me. There, not more than a yard in front of me stood menacingly, in the centre of this triangle, pulsing with heavy breath and **staring** me right between de eyes was dis, dis load! I recoils wiv 'orror and fear and drops da candle. Anna screams out in da darkness and runs hysterically across da circle right intah da triangle of art! I shahts at 'er ta stop but she's too crazed 'in she. Pounds straight into the triangle she does, stops dead in her tracks and then collapses to the ground in a heap. Bert rushes over to 'er carrying a torch and the scene is shattering. Anna 'as trod on va load and crushed it's 'ead in! We are all perplexed. The Curse of Bael must definitely be upon us now. We all stares at the crushed toad wiv disbelief. What are we gonna do? I asks the assembly ' I reckon we should try a bannishing ritual quick, in case something awful is manifesting itseft already'sez Bert. (Might know Intellectual 'Arry would come up with somfin eh?) I is willing ta give it a try under the circumstances so ere we are with Anna still feitin on da ground behind da Altar and Bert bent over er giving her da kiss of life to bring her round; and chalkie, who legged it back to the combi when Anna screamed out, jibbering like a lunatic and rocking to and fro in the sidecar. Here I go workin' off the quarters with a vengeance when suddenly this 'and falls 'eavy like on my shoulder. I stiffen and my heart pounds. My mouf opens but nuffin comes aht do it. I is nearly gone wiv shock when a hoarse voice sez

'Okay son, let's 'ave you nice and easy eh?'. I turns rahnd and see dis helmeted figure in Blue. Speechless with shock I quietly goes wiv im, head drooping, pleased, just dis once. that the law got me! I learns later that my 'disappearance' put the wind up Bert good and proper. He was so busy reviving Anna he didn't see what happened and when he gets up from behind the Altar I is gone! He straightaway thinks that Bael got me and this flips 'im and e runs like hell to the combi to see if I's in there. He don't get no sense out of Chalkie who's still babbling and won't come aht despite cajoling and it takes days to normalise everything so we don't shoot aht of our boots everytime we ears a car backfire or somebody drops something noisy like.

Wew, I ask yer! What a turn up eh? I puts it all dahn to these extra strong energies at Leys like Avebury. There real ya know and powahful too. Bert sez later that he learned a lot too but that he thinks that it was a classic example of the weakness of the Will to suggest ion and expectancy producing synchronistic phenomena. Sometimes I think Bert swallowed a Dictionary at Birth. All the same to me, thing about magic is, if it dahnt get you one way - it'll sure as 'ell get you ve other. See ya next issue eh? Oh, an dahn't forget a stamped' addressed envelope if all you admirers want autographed photos of Old Arfur. I've sewn enough mailbags so I aint payin' ta fill em! Next Issue I is preparing to tell you abaht how I cracked this big magical secret what 'as been mysteriously kept for fahsands of years—we thought.

MAGIC AMBER The Supernatural Fossil

FROM THE L.O.T. BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN CORRESPONDENT

The decorative qualities of Amber are obvious and highly appreciated by everybody. It's magical and curative power, however, has been forgotten and is only beginning to be considered (or rather re-considered) by occultists and holistic medicine.

Amber was used among the Ancients as a powerful amulet and is often found during archaeological excavations all over the world. Egyptians for example, used Amber for mummifying dead bodies and put pieces of it under their skin. Later Greeks and Persians believed Amber to consist of solidified Sun rays. Thales of Milet, the great Greek philosopher, claimed that Amber had a soul and demonstrated it's ability to generate a negative charge when rubbed. In fact the word for electricity is derived from the Greek word for Amber. The Phoenician sailors used to visit the Baltic coast, searching for Amber, as early as 1,000 B.C. During Roman Times there were three established Amber Routes leading upto the Baltic Sea and large quantities of Amber were used by Greeks and Romans for making Jewellery, talismans, incense and during magical rituals. The Gladiators' talisman was a piece of Amber with 'I Will Win' etched on it. Astrologically Amber, as a solar gem, was connected with Leo, and in magic it was used as a powerful defence against demons and evil spirits, (both as a talisman and as incense.) In folk medicine it was believed to cure a great number of diseases.

At present the curative properties of Amber are being studied in Poland, especially by the members of the Dowser's Association in Poznan. Jan Podbielski, an engineer and a Catholic Priest as well as an eminent dowser, has found out that Amber helps to keep up good health. He is 95 years old now and still in good physical and mental health. He discovered that Amber contains a large number of free electrons, which act as a bactericidal agent. Wearing rough never polished Amber helps to keep you in good health. Jan Podbielski ascribes his constitution to the fact that he has rubbed his hands with 2 to 3 drops of Amber tincture twice a day for most of his life. He believes it strengthens both the physical organism and the Aura. Rubbing amber spirit on various parts of the body is also believed to cure such diseases as flu, rheumatism, headache, etc. while wearing Amber necklaces heals disorders of the Thyroid gland.

Czeslaw Klimuszako, a franciscan monk and a recognised clairvoyant advocates drinking 2 to 3 drops of Amber tincture with boiled and cooled water twice daily. The ratio for it is 20g of Amber per pint of alcohol. It is ready after ten days. The Amber left can be used once again, then utilised as incense. There is much more to be said about this seemingly amazing substance but the avid experimenter will find it safe enough to employ it in all manner of trials for physical or psychic benefit and can best ascertain it's potent effects on his own magics and his own health. There are so many connecting links about Amber in Occultism that we would soon run out of space here. It is made traditional as Witches jewellery (necklaces especially) for use within a magic circle because of it's ability to take and hold a 'charge' for long periods. Similarly it is said to make magical accumulators permanent and increase their potency.

Amber is the distillation from an extinct coniferous tree, fossilised under pressure and by thousands upon thousands of years in time. It is found sometimes washed up by the sea on the Baltic coast or as a mineral underground. It is also found in some parts of North America and Australasia but is still considered to be very rare and usually fetches a high price.

RAFAL T. PRINKE

LOOK SPECIAL OFFER TO L.O.T. READERS OF AMBER ELIXIR FOR EXPERIMENTAL USE

Ready prepared genuine pure Amber imbued into alcohol at the rate specified by Jan Podbielski and Czeslaw Klimuszako supplied in a 2.0z. bottle (at the usage rate of 2-3 drops quoted this will last for months) for £5.87 plus 40p postage. OR. Purchase the Amber (sold in small pieces) for £4.54 for 2 gram. (about three finger-nail size pieces. Please enquire for nugget size pieces and prices.

Remember these prices are for genuine, unpolished, fossilised Amber resin pieces.
SEND ORDER TO: THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE. L.O.T. AMBER OFFER, 4/8 BURLEY LODGE ROAD, LEEDS LS6. 1QP. WEST YORKSHIRE U.K. (add 10% post for overseas orders).

NOTE: This item is sold for EXPERIMENTAL USE ONLY and no magical, medicinal aims or results are promised in connection with it.

THOTHJOKE NUMBER 4.

Question: WHAT GOES M-E-O-W.....SPLASH!

Answer: NOAH PUTTING THE CAT OUT.

A free pack of long-last joss is winging it's way to Mrs. F. Leland Bath. Win yourself a prize. Send us a Thothjoke quickly.

GOLEM'S GOSSIP!



Any resemblance in this column to any person living or dead is pure coincidence and completely unintentional being the rantings of a disordered mind and a slip in our screening processes. So saying we present:

Hello again my little automatons! What juicy bits of gossip we have for you this issue! But first; some of the saner readers have been criticising little Golem haven't you dears? "What the bloody use is Golem's Gossip to an earnest seeker of the Mysteries" we hear them say. The answer is simple my friends - no bloody good at all; unless you, like Golem, despise pseudo's that say one thing as Truth and espouse another. Like the esteemed Dr Douglas Baker, author of multifarious Occult Books and leader of many disciples, who shines forth Light and Metaphysical omniscience in his writings but who gets together his 'hard-liners'

to evict a rock group from one of the rented flats that bring in some of his earnings using 'heavy' tactics. Like Mystical writer and Guru Vernon Howard, author of seven books on the art of emotional control and mental magnetism with overtones of mystical wisdom and brotherhood; last heard of in Connetticut where his travelling lecture roadshow was amazed to hear him lose his temper and curse a persistent sceptic in the audience, bawling her out as she hurried ashamedly from the room! Or like Genneth Krant who refuses to answer any letters addressed to him unless they contain apoplectic bouts of homage (or perhaps cash?) and who has been known to sign his letters Love is the Law, Love under Genneth Krant! What use is Golem's Gossip? If you don't know dear, we needn't worry.

Disraeli Regardie is loved by many and hated by almost as many yet up until last month was still working hard at helping others and furthering his own alchemical work. A shindig with Frater Albertus and an Alchemical accident with Antimony has crippled his health and FINALLY Roddy Llewellyn Publihsers have paid up on the Royalties to the last two editions of the Golden Dawn after Disraelie's brilliant lawyer-nephew took the matter to the High Court. All this in mind Disraeli has bought a log cabin high up in the Arozona Mountains and is displaying a 'Piss Off' sign on the door. Golem wishes the old man well in his Autumn years.

Talking of Roddy Llewellyn Publishers, something is afoot. Despite the deplorable reputation that 'Roddy's' have in the U.S.A. for underhand tricks in the publishing business Occultists the world over owe them allegiance if only because they have brought into circulation some of the most sought after occult works an occultist can lay hands on. However, two months ago, as many of Golem's REaders will be aware, Gnosticuffs, the world's most favourite occult magazine bit the dust 'Roddy's' said that they couldn't be bothered with it and were short of time. Last month they decided they couldn't be bothered with their famous sales manager Dick Bentone' and he bit the dust too! Also: Raymond Buckledown reports a distinct lack of Royalties on his last two books and is becoming anxious. Those with orders outstanding for the fifth volume of the Magical Philosophy start to pray!

A little vulture has told me of the antics of self-styled King of the Hippies Sydney Rules. The catalogue of misdeeds of this sincere gentleman is almost hilarious. At certain I.O.W. rock festival a particular group of 'diggers' were to be paid £1.00 each for the work done during the festival. This large group of people were to be paid by Sydney Rules who somehow lost 50% of the wage bill and they only ended up with ten bob each! Next we hear of him organising Rock Festival Collections the purpose of which became more and more obscure as time went by resulting in that well known trick of the Ooslem Bird of disappearing up it's own Rectum! Self elected spokesman for various festivals and committees he was eventually ejected from one 'due to some incompatibility involving physical violence on his person'. This creep is also seen at the summer solstice down at Stonehenge getting in people's way organising various anti-druidic rituals and generally organising the Mass as though in a position of authority. This year he was also involved in the Tipi schamossel at the Festival of Mound Baddy and Porridge (see review last issue L.O.T. (1)) Sydney Rules - O.K.?

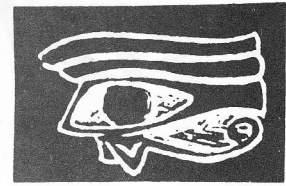
Don't buy the Witches Tarot! What Witches Tarot? More precisely WHICH Witches Tarot? Once upon a time the Man with the Golden Gun needed a special pack of tarot for Mr Bond and resorted to his Old friend Fergus Hall (a Scottish Surrealist painter) who knocked a pack off between surreals. True to form the James Bond Tarot was born. Along with the other James Bond crud like ejaculating dinky toys and replica action men with 'bendy' phalluses etc., they were forgotten in the mists of time. Forgotten that is until Stuart Kaplan (U.S. Games Syndicate) got the rights for a reprint. Off came the 007 slogan from the backs of the cards and on went 'The TARot of The Witches' UP went the price and OUT went the REAL witches tarot that Arnold Crowther produced in the 1950's. Who would sell such a thing though? EVERYONE. But the English distributors are KNOWINGLY billing these as Witches Tarot. We say knowingly because as some publishers do on a regular basis, they contacted Chris Bray of the S.A. and asked whether a range of Tarot cards (including the Witches Tarot) they were thinking of introducing were any good. They were illuminated to the fact that they would be 'taking on' many people if they sold this particular pack as Witches TARot but the firm answered not and began importing this misnomer in large quantities. Where is the real Witches Tarot?. It has NEVER been put into print. Golem has seen the original pack and it is very worthwhile from a Craft viewpoint. Anybody got a few thousand pounds spare to print it out for posterity?

Following disclosures that Routledge & Keegan Paul have employed an extra member of staff just to think up topical and alternative excuses as to why the prices of their books increase by lump sums of £1.00 regularly each calendar month, S.A. can say that this is entirely erroneous; they go up in price every TWO months. Despite this the common excuse among publishers as to why a book costs so much at the counter is the high cost of printing and production in the U.K. R.& K.P.'s latest book by Stephen Skinner called Terrestrial Astrology (not a large volume even though important) is £15.00. Why then is this same book available in the U.S.A. for the equivalent of £2.50 in paper covers?. Don't all rush to order it though because due to clever 'rights' buying by R.& K.P. it cannot be sold here! Monopolies commission where are you?

Following the dismal Festival of Mound Baddy & Porridge this year we have reports that the organisers made such a loss on their New York Festival last September that they had hoped to clear their American Creditors with the takings from the Olympia Festival this year. So! We stolid British have to subsidise the apathetic American Aquarian people eh? Or are we subsidising the Organisers of the Festival of Mound Baddy & Porridge? We now hear the festival lost money even at Olympia. You can't beat the Lords of Karma.

Bye Bye my lovelies. Don't forget to programme me with all your lovely gossip. Why keep it to yourself? That's no fun.

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Sankaras Reality

BY CARLYLE PUSHONG B.A., F.I.P.I., F.R.G.S

Vedanta Explained

Sankara or Sankaracharya (c. 788 - 820 A.D.) the great religious reformer and teacher of Vedanta philosophy was born in the Malabar district in the Deccan massif of India. He turned ascetic in his eighth year, becoming the disciple of Govinda a famous hermit who lived in a mountain cell on the banks of the Nerbudda river. Sankara died at Kedarnath in the Himalayas at the early age of thirty-two.

Sankara's main thesis is to show the identity between Brahman (God) and Atman (the Self); and that Brahman alone is the Ultimate Reality, for all else is Maya (illusion). He held that we must worship a First Cause in our own way but without comprehension of reality, for all the reality of the world is contained in God in the form of reality. The God Siva was Sankara's special object of worship, and he is believed to have been an incarnation of Siva.

ALPHA AND OMEGA

At different times, places, and by different cultures, the primordial originating life force has been referred to variously as 'Pneuma' in Greek, 'Spiritus' in Latin, 'Ruach' in Hebrew, 'Ruha' in Arabic and as 'Atman' in Sanskrit. Man following "the desire of the moth for the star," seeks satisfaction in the eternity dimension. In the final analysis what the yogi strives for is the integration of his psychic being with his true Self, the Atman, thereby hoping to magically produce the eternal body, the NIRMANAKAYA, none other than the homunculus of Western Alchemy, the purified permanent vehicle of the resurrection, the ultimate survival of the individual. The Ancient Days ordained that his prime creation Man was blessed with the faculty of Self-becoming, pointing his pathway to the stars, for "Man is the measure of all things."

Sankara's Advaita or Non-dualistic Vedanta considers Brahman as an indeterminate though unchanging reality, who is Himself the sole Reality. Creation is therefore an apparent evolution of the world out of Brahman through his power of Maya. The Brahmanic projection of the universe presupposes the ultimate entrance of man's Self into it. The continuance and dissolution of the manifested world-appearance serve only as aids to the realisation of the Self, leading to immortality - "That (viz, Self-knowledge) is the chief of all knowledge for it leads to immortality." (Manu Samhita). Sankara, time and again insists that in the Upanishads nothing is spoken of as a means to the attainment of the highest end of man, except the knowledge of the identity of the Self and Brahman. He further states that the non-attainment of the Self, is but the ignorance of It, correlating thereby the knowledge of Self with its attainment, there being no difference between the person attaining and the object attained, the Non-Self being the object attained. He also warns that the attainment of Self is thwarted by ignorance alone. In the same way Mother-of-Pearl might be mistaken for a piece of silver. The non-appearance of the former being the result of a false impression and its subsequent apprehension springing from true knowledge of its reality. Hence for the realisation of Self, every other means but knowledge is useless.

To Sankara the ultimate truth was pure self of Atman synonymous with pure being, pure intelligence and pure bliss. Therefore the world-appearance was unreal. Though Sankara never attempted to prove the world was Maya, he accepted it as indisputable, and as a power of Brahman, indistinguishable from Him. The double function of Maya is to hide Brahman from mankind, and to distort Him into a mental picture taking the shape of world-appearance. Maya is therefore indescribable neither real or unreal a super-imposition on the Self. Vedanta's summing up of Cosmic evolution is that one Supreme Will (Brahman), is manifesting through the entire creation which is an indivisible whole. In this connexion Sankara in his commentary on the Brihadaranyaka Upanisad says - "It is not only at the time of the origin and continuance that the universe, on account of its non-existence apart from Pure intelligence, is Brahman, but it is so at the time of dissolution also Brahman is to be known as Pure Intelligence, one and homogeneous."

THE INTUITION OF ATMAN

What is the intuition of Atman? Let us begin by stating what it is not. It is not a kind of psychism or a feeling of 'sentience', for the intuition of Atman transcends psychism. It is however instant illumination without any stirring of the inner dynamism.

It has also been said that the highest intuition sees the unity in diversity at the core of all existence. This however is still not the intuition of Atman. Whereas the holistic cognisance of the unity of diversity on the planet earth, partakes of an idealistic appreciation of the verities of life the intuition of Atman denies the relationship of multifarious diversities yet transcends them.

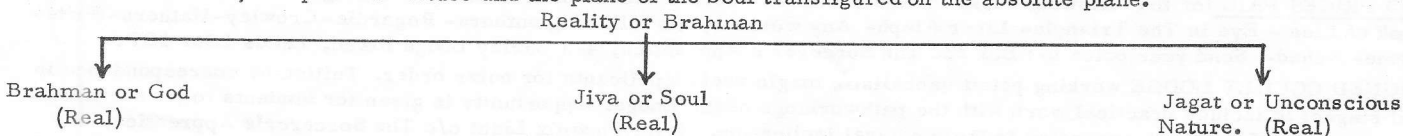
The intuition of Atman when functional implies rapport with the Ancient of Days or Brahman. Mystical experiences and visions are forms of psychism out of touch with reality and are the results rather of cosmic dynamism, which is quite something different to the pure intuition of the Atman and is indeed the exercise of Maya in its casual aspect.

In essence the intuition of the Atman is self-consciousness and not other-consciousness. In the ultimate it is final knowledge of the Absolute when there is no separation of subject and object: then indeed is intuition immediate and unique.

Visions and revelations are truths of the mental and supramental dynamism, empirical rather than transcendental. The intuition of the Atman is absolute truth, beyond the bounds of experience.

SANKARA'S THEORY OF REALITY

The essence of Sankara's theory of reality is that God, Souls and Nature are Reality itself. God is reality itself and contains in the form of Reality the plane of Nature and the plane of the Soul transfigured on the absolute plane.



BRAHMAN (GOD)

To describe the nature of Brahman in intelligible yet simple language, is beyond the scope of the Hindu Scriptures: even the Upanisads are silent. At best we are told the many things that He is not, the sum total of negations making Him the "Eternal Yea". It is only through the intuition of reality or direct perception that Brahman stands unveiled as the only Reality.

"When he has been apprehended by the words 'He is,' then His reality reveals itself." (Katha Upanisad.) Sankara explains away the finite and the world through the medium of Maya, whose substrate is Brahman. God is pure Being or Awareness, or pure Awareness that is its own Being, the Absolute Light of Spirituality. The process of origin from and return to God is and illusion. The soul is God, and therefore cannot leave or return to itself, for the soul is Saccidananda (Absolute Spirituality)

God is not the world, for the Infinite cannot absorb the finite. The world is God, for God contains the reality of the world in the form of Reality and spiritual fullness. According to Sankara, finite reality is simply reality when compared with the Reality of God. The test of true theism is the theory that God is unrelated to the world, which world however through and through related to Him. Sankara is the only Vedanta philosopher who has recognised the implications of divine transcendence. To Sankara the world is related to God as an unreality that behaves as if it were real. God, the cause of the world, possesses it in the form of cause, that is His own from: this is Sankara's sublimest doctrine.

JIVA (SOUL)

"The Atman in bondage is called Jiva." (Swami Vivekananda). An analytical study of the Upanisads incontrovertibly proves the identity between Jiva and Brahman, culminating in that prime utterance - "Thou art That." (Chhandogya Upanisad), which signifies that identity.

"I am the Self, O Arjuna! dwelling in the minds of all beings." (Bhagavadgita).

According to Sankara, the soul is in God, absorbed in Reality, subsisting in itself, in its substratum self-luminous. On the plane of concepts divorced from the plane of imagination Sankara maintains that the soul is called to live within a God-consciousness, operating in the effulgent light of its substrate, enabling the soul to look at reality with a divine ideal. The Soul disidentifies itself from God, considering itself distinct from Him and related to Him as a weak creature dependent on an Omnipotent Creator. The soul also apprehends itself as outside God and opposed to Him, being but a poor being enclosed in its individual body. God on the other hand is the Light that illumines and directs Nature in its totality or the world-body. He is the Almighty, the immanent substrate of the world-form. In his Omniscience He illumines Nature, expressing Himself in it.

In His Omnipresence He penetrates Nature and subsists in Nature as its inner Controller, by introducing souls into Nature. God subsists in the soul as its Omniscient Witness.

JAGAT (NATURE)

To Sankara, Nature is contained in absorption in God. Further, in God there is a spiritual Nature, in as much as Nature is through and through at one with Awareness. The theistical pantheism of Sankara is also highlighted when he considers the soul a pure spirit: therefore our intellect, our mind, our senses, our life, all belong to Nature. The world is a relative world, a superimposition on the Self brought about by a state or states of Avidya or erroneous perception or false knowledge.

"I am the origin of All; from Me ALL proceeds," says the Bhagavadgita.

CONCLUSIONS

The transcendent Supreme Self is none other than the transcendent Brahman. The origin, continuity and dissolution of the universe is mentioned in Vedanta texts for the purpose of strengthening our belief in the prevailing unity of Brahman, rather than as a gimmick to make us accept such happenings as actuality.

Sankara is one with the Bhagavadgita and the Upanisads in insisting that God in His immanence creates and pervades the world, and yet exists beyond it and transcends it. Sankara goes yet further by teaching that God is the Self in us and beyond us. In his commentary on the Brihadaranyaka Upanisad he says - "There is a transcendent Supreme Self and It is the cause of the universe". The man on the Clapham Omnibus in his practical way, identifies himself with his body, but the real character of the Self is not known or experienced by him. The Self therefore, is not the body. The mind of man is not the Self, for the mind is ever subject to changes, whereas the Self is unchangeable and constant. The intellect is not the Self, for during a state of deep sleep the intellect ceases to function, but the Self of man does not cease to exist. It is only in the super-conscious state of Samadhi that the Self is revealed, for in the mystical state the seeker experiences pure existence and pure consciousness, correlated with pure bliss or peace. This Self identical with God, is the Reality underlying both man and the world.

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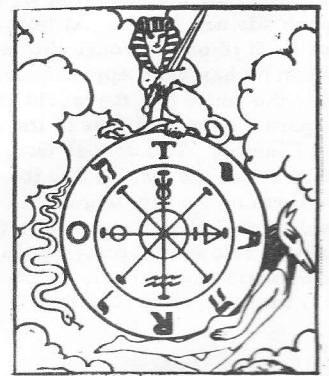
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SPIN THE WHEEL

by Donald

Spin the Wheel of magic wonder,
Spin the Wheel of magic light,
As comes the East on Eagles wings,
Spin the Wheel of a magic gladness,
Spin the Wheel of magic sight,
As comes the South and of Scarlet sings,

Spin the Wheel of a magic knowing,
Spin the Wheel of the magic might,
As comes the West, born of waters deep,
Spin the Wheel of magic yore,
Spin the Wheel of a magic soaring,
As comes the North, born of Silver,
Horned and of the Spiral Keep.



SECRETS OF PERFUME BLENDING

LEARN THE ART'S BASICS
FROM CHRIS BRAY.

Perfumes are the essences obtained from plants to which the flowers, leaves, etc., owe their fragrant odours- the art of perfumery deals with the extraction and properties of those essences and their preparation in convenient form for use in oils, incenses and scents as well as aromatherapy and regular commercial needs. Gum resins have been in use from very ancient times; they are exudations from trees, and their odours, in common with others possessed by plants are probably germicides or insecticides. Gums are chiefly used however for the perfumes they yield on burning not for extraction but can be tintured or imbued into "carrier" oils. The true perfumes are essential or volatile oils contained in minute sacs in the leaf as in mint, in wood (as in sandalwood) in bark, (as in cinnamon), in seeds (as in nutmeg) in rind of fruit (as in lemon) in petals of flowers (as in rose and lavender) or, as in the case of orris, in the rhizome. The extraction of the oil is performed in several ways. In the process known as enfleurage, when a fat or grease (beef suet, lard) is prepared and clarified, and spread on wooden frames in dark airtight chambers. On this the flowers are scattered and renewed regularly the surface of the grease being scratched to expose unaffected portions. So long as the flowers are in bloom and available for use the grease remains unchanged. It is then melted and strained and placed into jars or other receptacles. In other cases the aroma is caught in pure olive oil contained in felt placed above the flowers. Jasmine and tuberose are best prepared by enfleurage.

In the process of maceration, warm oil or melted fat is prepared, and the blossoms infused for several hours, being then strained away and fresh flowers immersed; The oils or fats produced are treated with pure absolute alcohol, which absorbs the essential oils and is decanted.

In other cases the flowers are placed in water in a still, and the oils are carried off with the steam and collect on the surface of the water, from which they are siphoned off. This is the method employed with woods, barks, seeds etc - construction of a still is illegal without licence from customs and excise but simple constructions can yield sufficient essential oils when built from ordinary household implements which dismantle easily and cannot be identified as anything other than household utensils.

Oil may in some cases, where it is present in large quantities, (as in lemon and orange peel) be pressed out. The amount of perfume obtained varies with the species of flower and also with the season. More than one odour may be obtained from the plant; in the case of the orange, the fruit yields Portugal oil, the flower a distinct odour, neroli, and the leaves yet another known as "petit grain". The process may give a distinct odour, for neroli is not orange scent; that is obtained by enfleurage. Essential oils are all soluble in alcohol, and this solution forms the usual commercial 'scent'. Sometimes the oils and alcohol are distilled together. The best perfumes however, are produced by steeping the pomades and oils from the enfleurage process for several weeks at a gentle warmth.

In the case of ambergris, castor, civet, musk etc., these are formed into a tincture by solution in alcohol. Several terms are in common use, mostly French in origin for obvious historical reasons. Extraits are strong solutions of the oils in alcohol after the process of infusion. They may be simple or blended, Esprits are weaker solutions. Essences may be the volatile oils themselves, or strong solutions of them. The terms bouquet and nosegay are applied to blended perfumes which have no one distinct flower odour. Of animal perfumes there are only four in use: musk, civet, ambergris, and castor. They are all extremely powerful. Genuine musk, for example, will impart odour to polished steel, though it will itself lose all fragrance within a year! Civet is even more potent than musk and both are insupportable when strong. Castor is reddish-brown, and is used in the dilute state. Ambergris from the stomach of the whale has a musky odour. They are all used in very dilute states, or merely to provide a base for bouquets they have the 'quality of fixatives and strengthen the 'resolve' of the perfume.

Synthetic chemistry has been successful in the preparation of artificial substances with practically the same perfumes and other characteristics as the natural products: Oil of cassia is mainly cinnamic aldehyde, $C_6H_5CH = CH.CHO$, which may be prepared from benzaldehyde or by heating the formate and cinnamate of calcium together. Vanillin, from the pod of the vanilla bean, can now be synthesised in the laboratory. From phenol, through salicylic aldehyde, is prepared the essence of the tonka bean. From the esters and ethers other substitutes can be prepared. Chlorostyrolene is a substitute for hyacinth oil; from naphthalene the methyl ether of naphthol, $C_{10}H_7(OCH_3)$, or nerolin, is produced as a substitute for neroli oil; other substitutes for this are methyl anthranilate from benzoic acid and the ethyl ether of naphthol, bromelia; niobe oil is substituted by the synthetic methyl benzoate; jasmine oil by styrolyl acetate from benzene.

As perfumes such substitutes are satisfactory, but as corresponded occult materials their use is suspect. This is why the Sorcerer's Apprentice ensures that if expense dictates even if a fraction of a percent only is included, at least some of the genuine article is put into the rarer oils they purvey. This brings the stuff within the reach of the regular occultist and yet they still work between the planes. None of the secondary organic constituents and micro-organisms are present in these synthetics. Beyond the general use as scents, perfumes are in use in various powders and dentifrices, in the manufacture of tobacco, as well as for flavours, and in occult use as basis for anointing oils, washes, incenses and rituals.

KEYS TO THE MYSTICAL DOOR

MAGICAL ATTITUDES
BY NEMERLE

The Secret Key that opens mystical doors to the hidden treasures of the Universe is activated desire. When you long for something with intense emotion you release magnetic and electrical forces within your mind which direct you to the fulfilment of the goals you desire. It is essential to positively programme yourself, as most of us are, and were, negatively programmed by our parents, church, school, society, into negative, weak and unhappy individuals. It is helpful to read the 'Desiderata' whenever you feel discouraged, worried or insecure.

Follow the Law of Cosmic Giving: Give your talents, your creative energy; your time; your consideration; your encouragement; your smiles; your friendship; all with the thought that you are helping the world. You will, under the Cosmic Law or Reciprocity, receive in return something of equal value to that which you have given.

Love is a healing force. Each day practise by sending out your love and compassion to others. When someone approaches you with an attitude of hate, envy or dislike, send out the emotion of love to that person, say 'I send you my love and compassion and you will respond with love.' A belief in bad luck, sickness and accident actually programmes the subconscious mind with negative forces that cause such unwanted conditions. Desire success and you will programme success into the higher centres of your subconscious mind. Desire health and long life, and your cells will be impregnated with the life force that can actually give you health and longevity. You were born to a higher destiny than ordinary mortals. You have divine potentials within your soul. You must believe this. You must dedicate your mind and body to the Great Work and great creative power will flow through you.

Do not be vague about your desires for improvement. Write them down so that they crystallize your mind force with definiteness and project these ideas constantly. They magnetise the elements you need for your life fulfilment. Positive identification with the creative powers of the universe gives you a sense of being aware, of being At One with the power, and knowing this you have the right to perform those things which you actively desire, or attract those conditions to yourself which will be beneficial to you. The words of the psalm 'Be still, and know that I AM GOD' shall take on a real meaning and inspire you in your work.

Fools are unfit to undertake the Great Work. Magic itself cannot be learned from books, (except the book you yourself write), books will only give you pointers. Magic is Life not a hobby. There are no short cuts, such as seeking for guidance from 'Nelly'. The great Secrets of the Universe have to be won, lived and experienced. They are not aquired from a book in a similar way to the acquisition of the secrets of motor car maintenance! Be thankful of life daily. Several times during the day stop and

PANDORA'S BOX



LETTERS INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION IN P.B. CAN INCLUDE A PSEUDONYM/YOUR INITIALS ONLY IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. YOU MUST HOWEVER INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME & ADDRESS FOR OUR RECORDS. MARK ENVELOPE: PANDORA'S BOX

Dear Editor,

An unpleasant manifestation of the dying Age of Pisces has been the campaign for a "return" to matriarchy. Although no satisfactory evidence has been adduced that matriarchy existed for any appreciable length of time or was effective in anything more than small, primitive tribes, it's deluded adherents propagate it as the answer to the world's problems. So let us take a look at the record of this benevolent Goddess of peace and harmony. The lady who is addressed in such invocations as: "Thou who dost rejoice when the bitches are howling and warm blood is spilled, thou who art walking amid the phantom and in the place of tombs, thou whose thirst is blood, thou who dost strike chill fear into mortal heart....." The Moon Goddess: the frigid, distant light without warmth that brings madness and controls the tides of death. Artemis, the virgin huntress, whose packs of hounds devour any man unfortunate enough to cross their path. The Goddess of "Love", in whose temples women were forced to undergo ritual prostitution. The Goddess who presides over crossroads, the unhallowed places of interment for suicides and vampires. The Queen of Hades, domain of the unquiet spirits. Hecate, patroness of worldly wealth and necromancy. Diana, whose temples were staffed by eunuch priests, allowed a seven-year term of office, after which they were ritually disembowelled by their successors. Kali of the Stranglers. Of course there is another aspect of Our Lady. The Great Mother. Mother Nature of the bountiful harvest.. and the famine. The gentle breeze .. and the deadly hurricane. An unreasoning force, not a divine power.

There is no logical reason for the worship of such an idol. There is an illogical reason, and to explain that would reveal an ugly perversion which has nothing whatsoever to do with Occultism. In the light of the New Age, such depravities will vanish; but the New Age has not yet dawned. MAGDALENE GRAHAM. Lancs.

Dear Editor. I read the inaugural Lamp of Thoth and found it an excellent production. Something for every occultist. A combination of pertinent humor and serious comment. Ray Sherwin's article was good, although I totally disagree regarding his comments on the magical use of the vernacular. English, being a cosmopolitan language, is an ill gotten mixture of Saxon, Celt, Teutonic and Gallic and I feel it is totally unsuited to magickal and philosophical thought. I always felt that the Catholic Church took a retrograde step when they threw out the Latin Services in preference to the Vernacular. Latin; Greek Hebrew; Arabic- Let's stick to a language that is really quite alive and well and has it's roots in originality! D.F. Bateson. Cottingley.

Dear Editor; Thanks, at last, for a really worthwhile and pertinent occult magazine. The L.O.T. is great. However, I was rather disturbed by the views expressed by Bill Hoffman in his letter in issue one of L.O.T. The first statement he makes in his letter is a rather sweeping one. I quote: "The continuation of awareness or what is more often called life after death, is in possibly all instances, conjecture. It can be nothing other than this". This comes from someone who professes to be a Witch! I find this rather hard to stomach to say the least. How can someone who follows the Old Religion (even the most pseudo-witch) dispute the fact of life after the physical body's death?. Surely it is one of the very basic tenets of the Craft (no matter which tradition) that at death one's soul passes to the Summerlands to rest and meet old friends etc., and then in due course is re-born on this Earthly plane. It seems to me a very strange view to adopt for any sort of occultist when it is patently obvious that life after death just cannot be proved or disproved by any known scientific method at the present time. So let's leave all this speed of light, Tachyon and infinite velocity rubbish out of it because it will prove sweet bugger all! How can any sort of Occultist not be dogmatic in one area or other? It is impossible not to have well defined views about one's own sphere of working in the Mysteries. For anyone who knows even the very minimum about the Occult I would say the basic belief in spirit existence after death runs through all the various traditions quite clearly. The whole tone of Bill Hoffman's letter exudes an air of confusion and dismay. Why not stop trying to analyse such a massive and virtually unanswerable subject and just try to accept the spirits unquenchable and eternal existence?. Surely if one has such a shakey ego and believes that there is nothing after the death of the flesh then that is exactly what one will encounter! I dislike the pseudo-scientific attitude which some so called Occultists take when looking at death and what comes after. It is so true that we have lost so much knowledge from the past. It is surely true to say that such people as the Egyptians, Greeks and the Celtic peoples had the integrity and foresight to totally accept the eternal life of the Soul; it seems a great pity that a lot of modern occultists do not practice what they preach and believe it even less! Blessed Be, Simon Musk, Leeds.

Dear Editor; Ray Sherwin doesn't stink! He is the kind of occultist who attributes the word: 'Uranos' to someone else's mum! Mike Howard is incorrect; A member of the Church of Aphrodite Pandemos was imprisoned for 3 years in the early 1970's. Given the treaty of Rome defence that it was his Religion to possess and use cannabis the punishment for a first offender is of little surprise. Most readers can charge talismata themselves but who knows the Priestcraft?. My services are cheap, only 7% of the Mass! (Make mine frankincense flavour joss Ed.) P P P P P's article :865 happens to be the value of "Auto Deizei" (Salvitur ambolando) and also Epsilon. The famous 'E' at Delphi?. According to Parfitt and Drylie there is no liber XXIX but the table of primes in 777 is highly revealing! The Lamp of Thoth must be the best occult magazine to appear in many years, let us hope that the high standard be maintained in future issues. Dr. S. F. Fuller. Sevenoakes

Dear Editor; Was delightfully surprised with the quality of content and attitude of the inaugural issue of L.O.T. Keep up the Good work. Also; would like to take this opportunity to comment on the so-called Occult renaissance. Here we are, yet again being reminded that we are undergoing an Occult Renaissance. Aren't we glad?. This means that ancient magikal Grimoires and other Works are being reprinted and are generally available, along with Magikal Paraphernalia, which can be obtained easily with no necessity for 'under the counter' secrecy that enshrouded anything Occult not so very long ago. For the Occultist and Magician this is excellent, but unfortunately, along with the outburst in genuine goods and people, one must also tolerate an upsurge in Charlatanism and rip off merchants, that have come creeping out of the woodwork and from under slimy rocks, mimicking, I presume, the antics of the Goetic Demons from whom they draw their morals! One regularly comes across unscrupulous people in this game, and there are quite a few floating about at any given time. One nasty character hails from the mountains of Wales and has taken several people for a ride through the Welsh Valleys trying to track him and his 'Golden Dawn Tarot Cards down, to no avail. He wraps himself in a shroud of secrecy and will not answer people's letters. Another perpetrator of evil came to my attention recently who attempted to re-institute the Order of the Golden Dawn, having had, so he said, direct contact with the Secret Chiefs of the original Order, who instructed him to re-form a working Lodge. Upon meeting this fellow it was blatantly clear that he was a rip-off job. Fortunately, I have been involved in Magik long enough to smell a rat when I see one, and here was one that carried the plague! The only thing to say to anyone who is just becoming involved with Occultism is to BE AWARE. Steve Crompton. Wigan.

Dear Editor; As you are covering such a wide range of subjects in the L.O.T. obviously each reader will love some items and like others less. I found the jokes rather laboured but the serious stuff excellent. I look forward particularly to the replies to Galadriel. Maybe it's me, but in various occult publications lately the hereditary or traditionalists seem to have been vying with each other in the 'holier than thou' stakes. Surely if wisdom is genuine, if truth is valid, it is JUST as valid in a bedsitter or suburban semi as an old cottage in rural Devon? It may be EASIER to reach Pagan roots in rural surroundings rather than a noisy town but that is cause for appreciating your situation not for smug superiority. I personally find snide remarks distasteful. Is Galadriel saying that she has verified that Alex Sander's Grandmother was already dead at the time of his initiation? If she has so established, why does she not clearly say so? If she has not such facts why drag this oblique smear in? I am neither Alexandrian nor Traditionalist (as yet) but the air of superiority which traditionalists are exhibiting is a bit reminiscent of the smugness of the 'established' members of various other Religions. "we are the chosen, you are the rabble" stuff. Perhaps not intentionally so; indeed, I hope not, it is sad to observe. Marion Jay, Clacton.

Dear Editor; I see that Ray Sherwin has found a new home in the L.O.T. since the fall of the New Equinox where his voice was heard (amongst other things). Now he is with us again ranting and raving about bogies and saying magic is no more than a game; and bugging everybody! He never states what the new ideas are that he goes on about. Is Mr Sherwin a man with Knowledge that we poor souls struggling to the light have missed? Have we not heard this type of thing before - ? Did not Crowley rant on about change and push everything into an abyss that did not go with his opinions? I am all for change, but not at the expense of tradition as I believe you can change a thing so much that you can lose out in the end. I think magic has caught up with the (80's) in it's own way and any unnatural attempts to change it will make it like the Dodo. What is this English quabalah that Mr Sherwin thinks so high of. I thought quabalah was of Jewish origin? Is this a new discovery or did the monks of England have it or is it Jewish made into English or was it English made into Jewish? I say bugger Ray Sherwin as it is he who is not paying attention and he is the only bogie in magic to date. Resurgam.

Dear Editor,

Whilst agreeing wholeheartedly with Ray Sherwin, I would also like to say that in the pursuit of magick some will doubtlessly be unable to follow any other paths outside traditional magic. It is to be hoped that some of them will indeed strike out at sometime, in a new magical direction towards a non-traditional horizon. Trump 1: The Magus also Thoth, of the Tarot Major Arcana, points the way to the magic of the seeker's subconscious mind. (CARLYLE PUSHONG LONDON).

SELF ANALYSIS THROUGH TAROT

Most experienced occultists are aware that the Keys of the Tarot have magical and meditational usages aside from divinatory practices. The use of the Tarot as a means of self-analysis can be of the greatest value to those engaged in The Work. There come times in the progress of all those on the Occult Path when there is a need for a re-assessment of the position of the psyche in relationship to it's surroundings. Many tarot students may wish to work solely with the Major Keys, but the Lesser Keys too are sources of Occult and psychological meaning, and the present writer feels that they have been unjustly neglected. Consider for a moment the four Tens of the different suits, or the four Twos. Their relation to magical workings and to Jungian psychology will be apparent to those who have an insight into these systems and to the Tarot. Even one who is unversed in the Tarot, if at all sensitive to impressions will be struck by the pictorial images while running through the Tarot Deck. How much more so in the case of an experienced occultist.

The procedure for this kind of analysis is one that is best conducted within the focus of a circle with such appurtenances (lights, incense, colours, icons etc,) which the operator feels to be correct. After a preliminary meditation and invocation the operator begins to turn over a Tarot deck in consecutive order, while maintaining a detached yet watchful state of mind. While many of the Keys will be passed with no inner response, some will produce a tremor of Accord or recognition. These must be placed aside in order. If this ritual is performed under the correct conditions, the resulting group of Tarot Keys will not be large (The exact number will be variable but it is usually between four and ten) Normally when this part of the proceedings is finished there should be a pause for a second meditation before the significance of those cards selected are studied for their impact on the deeper levels of the consciousness. If the operator is to benefit he must be completely honest in his interpretation of the Keys as they relate to himself, and it has proved best in practice to make a written account of the Keys. First these must be studied individually as representations of facets - positive or negative, of the reader's psyche; then the smaller and very revealing details of the main symbolism should be considered; finally the Keys should be read in a connected sequence. Contemplation of the chosen sequence as a whole will make clear not only the strengths but the weaknesses of the operator and they will suggest openings for new methods within a specific magical framework. Occasionally this method will result in as few as two, or even a single key, this will not produce a less meaningful reading, for such is the wealth of symbolism contained in each key that a single one can say all that is required. Before the circle is closed the details of the working should be transferred to the magical diary (as should the results of all Occult experiments undertaken) Future study often elucidates the meanings still further. The 'House of Mirrors' once a feature of the fair-ground amusements presented the physical form in a series of distortions. The Mirror of the Tarot presents the inner-self devoid of distortions, and leads to a fuller knowledge and enlightenment, if applied conscientiously. J.H.

THOTHJOKE NUMBER THREE

Did you hear the one about the 14th Century Irish Alchemist who spent 60 years at the Great Work and eventually succeeded in turning Gold into lead.....

A pack of long-last joss is on it's way to Mr R. Isherwood, St. Ives for his contribution. Send in a joke and win a pack yourself.

Magic by the LAW

In response to Ray Sherwin's article in L.O.T. issue 1. (the article headed Bugger The Bogies) which was valid but could be a source of distress to many less practically experienced exponents of Magic, especially those undergoing The Dark Night of The Soul (the experience that invariably follows Initiation). The main problem the 20th Century occultist has is in the grasping of The LAW. By this I mean THE ONE LAW and it's myriad of manifestations in Nature. Many occultists fail to recognise that the Universal LAW that spirals a sea-shell; sends water down the plug-hole; circles the weather low pressure systems etc., IS THE SAME LAW that spirals Galaxies and Body Fluids within us. At the beginning of the century, aviation was on everyone's lips. Many weird theories of flight resulted in many weird looking flying machines. Men who were convinced they were right, insisted on trying to jump off the Eiffel Tower, and attempted other lunatic flights, leaving the rest still wondering why they had failed. The inability to produce a safe, practical and productive form of air transport AT THAT TIME was simply ignorance of the natural law of flight. Despite millions of insects, birds and other flying creatures wheeling over their heads (as they had done for millions of years previously) these early aviators (as many occultists do today) thought that the laws of flight did not apply to them as men. That they were somehow different. It was only when one particular man who was observant and receptive enough to pick up and investigate a dead bird he found, and based his theory on flight on his experiments with it, was a practical machine ever made. Being isolated his discovery didn't reach the 'modern' world, but the Wright brothers (nearly 100 years later would you believe) came to the same conclusion and did build a workable machine. Even today, the best aircraft are the ones which are closely modelled to the bird. One need only look to nature for our yardstick of the LAW.

The apparatus which is the most useful to the occultist is his Subconscious. The Subconscious is the most efficient bio-chemical computer ever. In it, over thousands and thousands of years of evolution the LAW has been imprinted to produce a being whose potential is UNLIMITED. Man can, however, only use this 'computer' to it's full potential if he uses a language that the subconscious can understand. A computer needs a communication system to work with (i.e. a language) whether it be Basic or Binary. The elements of that language have to be given a VALUE e.g. 1= 10 or A =1. etc. OR in the occult, Yellow is Earth, Jupiter is expansive, generous etc. If that language applies to the operator and can be understood both ways, all well and good. However, if the computer operator doesn't know the language no benefit is gained. Today modern computers have come into their own since Man has learned to program the computer TO SPEAK HIS LANGUAGE. Now everyone is learning to use them effectively, from school kids to grannies! For the occultist, it is slightly different because he is not the creator so it things must be done the reverse way round. He must learn the language of the Subconscious. Here the Job is simple because the subconscious is using the One Universal Language allied to the LAW. The subconscious has the capacity to do thousands upon thousands of little and great things, on a microcosmical and macrocosmical scale. Our problem is knowing when and how to manipulate the 'computer'. Imagine, the result of trying to control a vast computer like the one in the Pentagon, say, without access to the 'Keys'. The result could very well be catastrophic for the world, but Man is ingenious and places safety devices against idiots who may press the wrong buttons. The Tao is just as clever! The trouble with Occultists is that they insist on pressing buttons before learning what the buttons will unleash and then they wonder why they get Bogeyes.

There are some occultists who say all is Chaos and make up their own LAWS and end up like the earlier aviators, at the bottom of their own Eiffel Tower, rubbing their bums saying 'I am perplexed'. If we insist on Invocations and Barbarous words of Power from an Old Grimoire that we do not consciously understand, the subconscious will give us 'Bogeyes'; this does not mean that the Grimoires are any way invalid however! The authors of these 'Grimoires' may have been simple in their living, food and pastimes but they were at the same time perceptive, wise and extremely resourceful. The Grimoires Did Work, for them because they recognised the One True Immutable Eternal LAW. They reduced the principles and qualities and effects of the LAW into personifications of force; SPIRITS & DEMONS. They gave them names and appearances and each had a Seal. This seal can be likened to a Random Access Memory on a modern computer. You place in the Key Word/Number or in our Occult example the Seal. Then you get the Formula or process you have 'programmed' in front of you on the screen, likewise in our subconscious the spirit 'appears'. Then you need only apply the formula to gain results from the spirit or force you have conjured.

Don't knock the Grimoire Ray, for Christ's sake! What is Wrong is our ability to use the Language. How do we learn to use the language? Look around and Observe. It's all around us, in the geometrical perfection of a flower, the sequence of colours in the sunrise and sunset, and so on. MAN KNOW THYSELF is the charge. To know oneself and one's relationship to NATURE and THE UNIVERSE. Man today, in comparison with the Ancients, is at a disadvantage. He is surrounded by concrete, fumes and noise, or at least the majority of the population do so suffer. An occultist can learn more by taking himself deep into Nature and being STILL than sitting in a small pokey room racking his brains over the Enochian Keys. In many occult works the word CHAOS occurs. Let us examine this word. It means disorder, confusion. The state of matter before reduced to order by the Creator...and the first unformed state of the Universe according to some theologies. To the many newcomers to the Occult I say Be Careful! Look around you, the Universe is in no way CHAOTIC. Perfect Order exists everywhere and the only difficulty we may have in perceiving this is placing ourselves in the same TIMESCALE as this order. I was told in a particular Occult shop by an enthusiastic occultist, (I knew he was enthusiastic because he was covered with what seemed like every type of talisman in existence) "Yeah, well it's all Chaos 'in it'". Then everyone wonders why we get Bogeyes!

Just recently I have met a number of learner occultists on the verge of paranoia. On asking them what they have been doing to get in such a state many have described rituals varying from Bannishings to Evocations. Why the Bogeyes? As I see it, by not embracing the LAW totally. They go to their Temples or workrooms, say a few 'words' get a ZAP then forget it and return to a life which ANYTHING but embraces the LAW. The only way to bury the bogeyes is to give up occultism altogether OR embrace the LAW in every waking minute. Modern man must perceive the LAW at work, when he is driving his car, eating his food, lighting a gas fire, etc. etc. OCCULTISM IS NOT A PASTIME. IT IS THE ONLY REAL WAY OF EXISTENCE. Man places himself out of touch with the LAW by eating the wrong foods, smoking and drinking to excess and so on. Then Man wonders why he gets ill. This is a Bogey too! We often laugh at the language and words used in old Magical textbooks, but I, I'm afraid as far as magic is concerned it is WE who are backward. I quote from the BOOK OF THE SACRED MAGIC OF ABRA-MELIN THE MAGE (Ed: this is available from the S.A.) from the Second Chapter Page 53 (the second part/book) entitled 'What we should consider before undertaking the operation' "... In like manner as I myself at present, so even should you think, before entering into this manner and before taking of the possession of so great a treasure how much this Gift is sublime and precious and how vile and base are YE yourselves who be about to receive it. This is wherefore I say unto ye, that the beginning of this Wisdom is the fear of God and of Justice. These be tables of the LAW,

the qabalah and the Magic; they should serve unto ye for a rule. It is necessary that ye attach yourselves unto the VERY BEGINNING, if you truly do wish to have the veritable wisdom; and thus shall ye walk in the right PATH and be able to work, all the which is contained in this book, and all the which is therein described....."

You will notice I have underlined the word FEAR. This word is an unfortunate choice and is the result of mis-translations over the ages (In this respect Ray Sherwin's article is justified) But, Like the word Repent, it is an unhappy translation of the Greek word METANOIA, meaning change of mind. Or a change of thinking processes! I wonder how many people, especially Christians consider that repent and regret mean the same thing. Let us take the words fear and justice from this quotation. Try inserting RESPECT instead of FEAR and APPLICAT-ION OF LAW instead of JUSTICE.

So, Occultism is infected with Bogeys says Ray Sherwin. Is there any wonder? The LAW does not just manifest itself for occultists, but for EVERYONE in everyday life. If one flouts the LAW one gets boogies. If a person insists on smoking, he should not moan about being short of breath or getting pulmonary ills. If a person drinks excessively he shouldn't moan about getting a pot belly or bad kidneys etc. In occultism, if we insist on not learning the LAW, the language that manifests in the whole of existence in the form of universal principles, then we should not moan about getting Bogeys. The ancients managed it. Are we saying that 20th century man, who has been to the moon; transplants hearts, sows back arms and legs and accomplishes a myriad of other previously impossible things cannot bury Bogeys? Are we still to insist that WE are a little different? The only chaos that remains is our inability to REPENT. We only have to look at Society in the world today. I maintain that Traditional Magic IS valid. There is nothing wrong with the Old Grimoire, just our way of relating to it and the Universal LAW. To all the so-called Experts I recommend you read a manuscript entitled 'THE GOSPEL OF THE ESSENES' (Ed: This book is available from the S.A.). The original Mss on papyrus was only dug up in 1946. The translation was finished in 1975 and published in its original form in 1976. Ray Sherwin need not worry, Crowley hasn't seen it; and what is more Ray, It's In English! Peace be with you.. Mike Jamieson.

Ed; From certain comments in this issue many general readers may well have formed the opinion that Ray Sherwin is fast becoming the person all traditional occultists love to hate. This is a distortion of the facts and is slightly unrepresentative. Ray Sherwin is hated no more or less than many other self opinionated Occultists who have achieved fame and adepthood through annoying everybody else in the Universe, like me for example.

SHAMANISTIC SEX MAGIC

In magical circles during the last decade a wider knowledge and practice of sex magic has appeared. The recognition that there is but One creative power, which is equally potent whether used in art; for procreation; or for magical workings; is one of the most important ideas in the occult movement today. Even now there are many practising occultists who seem to regard Shamanism as something related to far eastern countries such as Tibet, but it would not be unfair to say that all powerful magicians must become aware of Shamanistic ideas and practices if they are to become fully successful. That state wherein the operator not only mediates between this plane and that of the powers known as Gods, but actually effects in his own-self a Union with those powers must be essential for any form of La haute magic. If this heightened state of consciousness is to be allied to and attained through the carefully directed use of the sexual impulse then it must be worked out in conditions that are completely suitable. Such conditions are produced by a combination of the Magical Will and the Magical Imagination, and it is sad to say that there are many who aspire to this kind of magic who possess neither. A deficiency of this kind can only be corrected by proper training and practice.

Choice of the Gods or Goddesses that are to be identified with as the framework for such a working will of course be something that only the operator can decide upon, but once that decision is made a thorough knowledge of the chosen god-forms with all the associated symbols and Mythological details will help to create a complete mental and emotional picture.

Unless the working is to be auto-erotic it will also be essential to have a suitable magical partner; one who is on the same emotional and imaginative level as the magician and who can work with him in complete sympathy. The main difficulty of this kind of Magic is that, while in ordinary life the attainment of orgasm results in a brief 'self-forgetfulness' here it has to be part of a chain of complete control which embraces the mind, feelings, the specially charged imagination, and also the physical process of the orgasm - by no means an easy task and one that is usually led up to by practising control in one or the other of these fields separately until they can all be combined with success.

We may paraphrase Browning and say that for this kind of magic it is absolutely necessary to have 'the time and the place and the loved one all together' for it is upon these that the success of the Process depends.

The time will be determined by those seasons known from of old which indicate when the cosmic tides are at their strongest. Which of these periods throughout the year is to be chosen will be relative to the purpose of the Magic; and the subtle differences between the 'times' will be utilised, for while they are all equal in power they are each different in their range and type of correspondences.

The place will be the Magician's usual sphere of working perhaps adapted for the particular conditions required. There must always be the Circle to contain the power, and such details that correspond with the special features of the Working. Where a Magical Partner is used this will give the presence of the loved one. There must be a complete understanding of the part which the magician and his co-worker have to play - and here it might be wise to stress the importance of the building up of the correct atmosphere prior to the orgasm which releases it. This can only be achieved by slow working and by a subtle blending of the erotic and Magic Arts until both partners become immersed in this almost tangible atmosphere where the vibrations can be fused and directed to accomplish the Magical Will.

The chosen God-forms and the Mythologies surrounding them will offer many hints to the percipient worker which he will be able to incorporate into his own ritual, and this is vital, that his own creative imagination, plans and prepares the ritual. Second hand rituals whether taken from old grimoires or from modern sources are no substitute for an original ritual that springs from the heart and mind of the Magician himself.

JOHN HENSON.

OCCULT MUSINGS ON CLEVERNESS....

MANY A SLIP MY MOUTH DOETH MAKE
FOR MY MOUTH IS EGO PRESENTED
WHENEVER I THINK MY IDEALS ARE STRAIGHT
MY PERSONA STICKS OUT AND GETS DENTED.

IT COULD BE MY FAULT BUT IT MOST LIKELY ISN'T
FOR EVERYONE SEEMS ABLE TO SEER
THAT AS AN ACCOMPLISHED MAGICIAN
I CAN'T IDENTIFY MY ARSE FROM MY EAR

PERHAPS SILENCE IS THE KEY
TO ENSURE A MORE CORRECT ME
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD NEED
TO SHUT UP AND READ AND WAIT FOR AN ADEPT, TO SEE.

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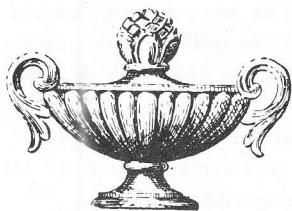
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